

June 28-July 4, 1987

GayCommunityNews

VOL. 14, NO. 48

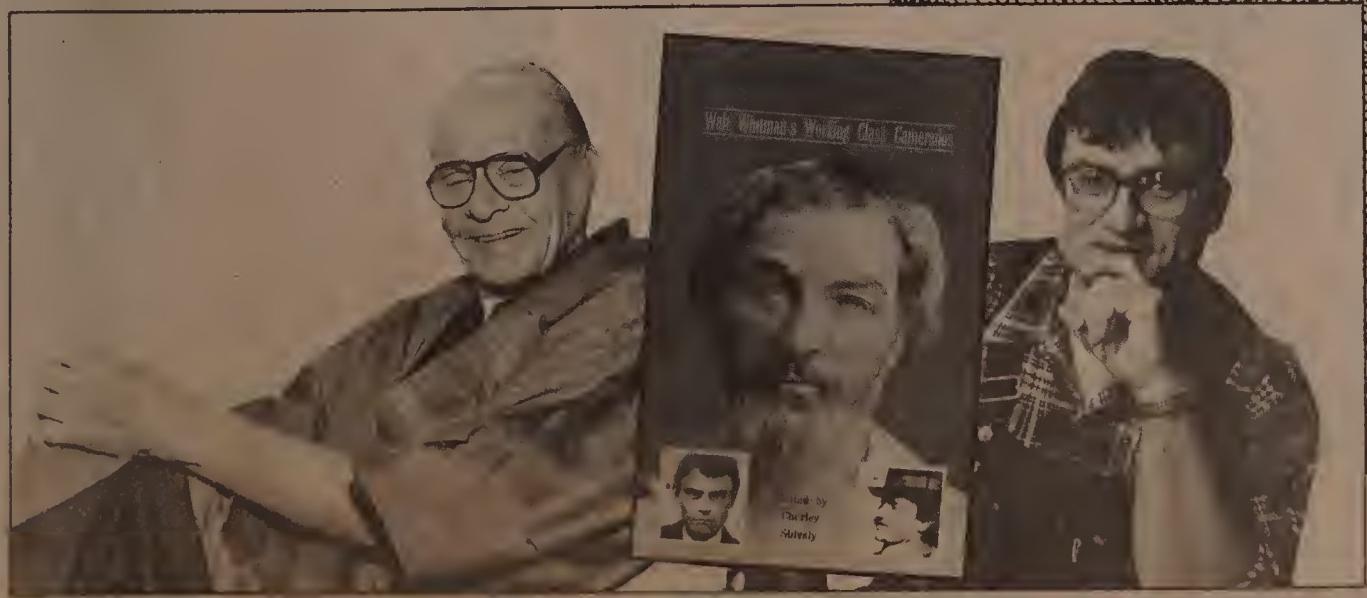
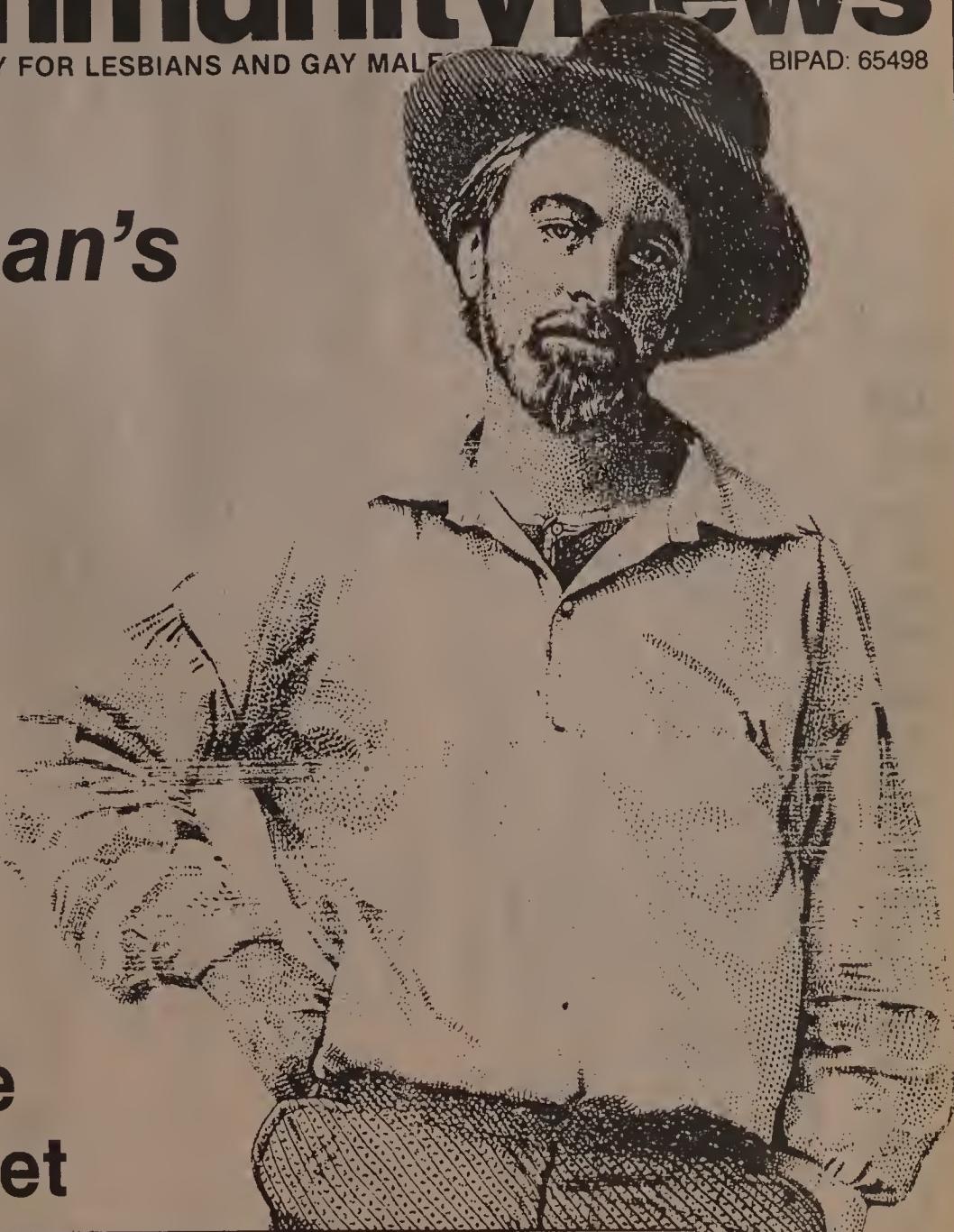
THE WEEKLY FOR LESBIANS AND GAY MALE

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Walt Whitman's World

**Harry Hay
Questions
Charley
Shively's
Version of the
Good Gay Poet**



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High Court Rules for Houston's Gay Cop-Buster

By Chris Bull

HOUSTON, TX — The Supreme Court, on June 15, ruled unconstitutional a Houston ordinance allowing the police to arrest anyone "interrupting" an officer on duty. The case stemmed from a Federal District Court suit brought by long-time gay activist Ray Hill after he was arrested for protesting the alleged beating by police of a Black man.

Calling Hill a "citizen provocateur" and "troublemaker," the Federal District Court ruled that the ordinance was not unconstitutionally vague, but the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 5th Circuit reversed the decision. The Texas Attorney General and Houston police department then appealed to the Supreme Court.

Hill told GCN that his friend Charles Hill was walking down the street with his white girlfriend in Houston on February 14, 1982. Charles stopped to help a man out of a parking space by directing traffic. According to Hill, a policeman swore at Charles and dragged him into an alley. When two officers began beating Charles with their flashlights, Hill intervened. "Why don't you pick on someone your own size," Hill said he told the policeman.

Hill was then arrested and jailed under the city ordinance which makes it a crime to "oppose, molest, abuse or interrupt any policeman in the execution of his duty."

Hill, who is running for the Houston city council, works as an assistant to criminal defense attorneys and is a member of the Houston Gay Political Caucus. In



Ray Hill at a Houston conference for the first Lesbian/Gay March on Washington, July 1979.

1969, he was sentenced to 160 years in prison for funding his political activity through burglary of antique furniture and art work. He was released in 1975. (See GCN, Vol. 11, No. 29 for an in-depth interview with Hill.)

The high Court's decision was hailed by free speech advocates as a step toward eliminating unnecessary police power.

Justice William Brennan wrote the 8-1 majority opinion. "Houston's ordinance criminalizes a substantial amount of constitutionally protected speech, and accords the police unconstitutional discretion in enforcement," he wrote. "The freedom of individuals verbally to oppose or challenge police action without thereby risking arrest is one of the principal characteristics by which we distinguish a free nation from a

police state."

"The ordinance's plain language is admittedly violated scores of times daily, yet only some individuals — those chosen by police in their unguided discretion — are arrested.... We conclude that the ordinance is substantially overbroad." Chief Justice William Rehnquist dissented.

Justice Antonin Scalia filed an opinion concurring with Brennan, but expressed some reservations about drawing "a fine line between legitimate criticism of the police and the type of criticism that interferes with the very purpose of having police officers...the court's opinion appears to reflect a failure to apprehend that this ordinance — however it may be construed — is intended primarily to further the public's interest in law enforcement."

Craig Ferrel of the Houston Police Department's Legal Service Bureau claimed that the department

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Crab-Cooking 'Olympics' OK'd Supremes Ban Gay 'Olympics'

By Kim Westheimer

WASHINGTON, DC — Two days before the first national Senior Olympics in St. Louis, the Supreme Court has ruled that Gay Games organizers cannot call their event the Gay Olympics.

The Court determined June 25 in a 5-4 decision that Congress granted the U.S. Olympic Committee the exclusive commercial use of the word "olympics." The Court refused the argument that "olympic" has become a generic word which cannot be regulated. Supreme Court Justice Lewis Powell authored the majority position.

Gay Games organizers, who were taken to court by the U.S. Olympic Committee, say the suit was motivated by homophobia. They noted that the Olympic Committee has not attempted to prosecute the Junior Olympics, the Special Olympics or the Crab Cooking Olympics. But according to the Associated Press, the Court ruled that the Committee does not have to worry about charges of anti-gay and -lesbian discrimination because it is not

a government agency and therefore cannot violate anyone's right to equal protection under the law.

"We're very disappointed," said Gay Games spokesperson Jack Murphy. "But we can be heartened by the dissenting opinion [written by Justice Thurgood Marshall and William J. Brennan]."

Gay Games plans to pursue legislation which would remove the word "olympic" from the Olympic Committee's jurisdiction, said Murphy.

The U.S. Olympic Committee could not be reached for comment.

The Olympic Committee challenged Gay Games organizers in 1981 when they attempted to host the "Gay Olympics," a sporting event specifically for lesbians and gay men. In 1982 a federal judge ruled against the organizers. In 1984 a court of appeals upheld the judge's opinion.

Gay Games III is scheduled for 1990 in Vancouver.

—filed from Boston

Gay Firefighter Suspended

By Kim Westheimer

BOSTON — A Black gay firefighter who recently came out about homophobic and racist harassment in the Boston Fire Department was given a five-day suspension without pay.

Jackson, an 11-year veteran of the force, has been warned not to speak publicly about his situation at the department, according to his lover, Randy. Randy asked that his last name not be used.

The suspension is a result of charges that Jackson displayed "disrespect or insolence to a superior," failed to address an officer "respectfully and by [his] respective" title, and "reported to a fire scene without the proper equipment assigned to [him] by [his] fire officer."

Fire Dept. Lieutenant Walter McGinn, who filed the charges, claimed that on March 12, Jackson "blew cigarette smoke in my face and addressed me as 'hey man, don't bother me' and walked away while I was still talking to him. I ordered him to come back but he ignored me completely." Following this interaction, McGinn asserts that he told Jackson he was his "superior officer and was to be addressed as either 'Lieutenant' or 'Sir.' At this point I asked him to tell me what my rank was, again he



Robert Jackson

blew cigarette smoke in my face and stood there, defiantly."

In addition, McGinn charged that on February 23 Jackson failed to "have his straps and bolt put on his fire coat."

McGinn's charges were filed on March 14. The suspension order was dated June 18 to go into effect from June 23-28.

According to Randy, who said he was speaking about this incident because Jackson cannot, the charges are completely unwarranted. Randy surmised that Jackson

**Mass. Gov.
May Over-
turn Ban
on HIV
Test for
Insurance.**

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news notes

quote of the week

"This AIDS thing has been very useful to get back at what [right-wingers] would call 'the fags.' If they keep doing this to that minority, which is a very big one, I could see violence. The fags were not going to take that. I can really see a kind of civil war breaking out."

—not-admittedly-gay writer Gore Vidal ("I never said a word about my private life. Ever.") in an interview on sex and political power in The Progressive, September, 1986.

handbook for national march civil disobedience

SAN FRANCISCO — Preparations for non-violent civil disobedience at the Supreme Court on October 13 are now in the beginning stages. Activists planning the action, to follow the Oct. 11 national march on Washington, are requesting submissions for a handbook to assist in organizing.

Articles of approximately 1,000 words are needed on the following topics: 1) the Georgia sodomy decision; 2) the history of non-violent civil disobedience; 3) reasons for targeting the Supreme Court; 4) a history of the lesbian/gay movement; 5) accounts of previous lesbian and gay civil disobedience actions and on the arrests of gay people within non-gay oriented actions; 6) what to expect during the action in D.C.

Handbook editors also request articles on how to organize within a community and material about homophobia, feminism, decision-making and consensus, serving time in jail, jail solidarity and carrying the D.C. work home.

For more information or to submit articles, write by June 30 to Eileen Hansen, 158-A Lexington St., San Francisco, CA 94110 or call (415) 621-5620. Please include your name, address and phone number with all submissions.

—Stephanie Poggi

lesbian lizards

SACRAMENTO, CA — An all-female species of desert grassland whiptail lizard has recently come to the attention of the National Academy of Sciences. According to *Update* of southern California, a report by the Academy states that the lizards reproduce by parthenogenesis, i.e., without male insemination. The lesbian lizards reportedly engage in sex for pleasure — with each other.

—Wendy Scott

jamaica plain protests foster bill

BOSTON — Angered by an anti-lesbian and -gay budget amendment sponsored by Sen. Arthur Lewis (D-Boston), a number of his constituents held a press conference on June 23 to express their outrage. Lewis represents sections of Jamaica Plain and West Roxbury.

The amendment, which has passed the House and Senate, mandates that the Department of Social Services not accept lesbian or gay foster parents, adoptive parents or child care workers. Originally introduced by Rep. Marie Parente (D-Milford), the amendment states that "a homosexual or bisexual orientation shall be considered an obstacle to the psychological well-being of a child." Governor Michael Dukakis has intimated that he will veto the amendment.

"I feel that the language in this budget amendment is odious," said Andrea Perrault, a member of the Massachusetts Women's Political Caucus and the Ward 19 Democratic Committee. "The behavior it would engender is even more odious."

In addition to criticizing Lewis, spokespersons at the conference had harsh words for Governor Michael Dukakis and Human Service Secretary Philip Johnston for continuing to support a controversial foster care policy which restricts lesbian and gay foster parenting.

"The door to this kind of [amendment] was opened by the Governor," said Dan Satinsky, a member of the Ward 11 Democratic Committee. "Once the door was opened the political demagogues stepped right through it." Satinsky called on Dukakis to "close the door and do the right thing by making sure this amendment doesn't become law." The Ward 11 Democratic Committee has voted to oppose the amendment.

Thomas Geraty, the liaison to the Massachusetts Lesbian and Gay Political Caucus for the Massachusetts chapter of the National Association of Social Workers, questioned whether politicians are empowered to make "blanket statements of condemnation" against lesbians and gay men.

Speaking on the need for more foster homes, Richard Tyree, a recently approved adoptive parent, noted that "DSS is so swamped" that they "jump on" prospective foster parents "like starving rats."

—Kim Westheimer

feminist party gains power in iceland

REYKJAVIK, Iceland — A feminist political party called the Women's Alliance may soon form part of the new coalition government, according to *off our backs*. In Iceland's April 26 parliamentary elections, the Alliance won ten percent of the vote; they now have six seats, twice the pre-election number.

Because the center-right Progressive Party government was toppled in the elections, a new coalition is forming. But the Women's Alliance maintains it will only join the coalition if there is agreement to raise women's wages, improve child care and increase maternity leave.

The Alliance has no leader and reportedly is opposed to a hierarchical structure. They plan to rotate representatives in Parliament among group members.

Iceland, which has a female president, Vigdís Finnbogadóttir, has had an equal rights amendment since 1976.

—Oonagh Doherty



9th annual ilga conference

LONDON — Members of the International Lesbian and Gay Association Steering Committee at a rooftop planning meeting for the 9th annual world conference. The conference will take place in Cologne June 29-July 5. ILGA is currently working to build better representation from Third World countries and to raise funds for the global organization.

—Stephanie Poggi

the closed minds of gay protesters

BOSTON — An article in the June 19-25 issue of the local *Phoenix* takes gay opponents of Governor Michael Dukakis' foster care policy to task for their lack of "perspective." Entitled "Duke-bashing — The closed minds of the gay protesters," author Scot Lehigh argues that Dukakis is a friend of gay men and lesbians despite his anti-gay policy and that protests targeting the Governor are inappropriate.

Focusing on a Gay and Lesbian Defense Committee demonstration outside a \$1,000/plate fundraiser for Dukakis' presidential campaign, Lehigh writes:

"Anger over the foster care policy and those two [AIDS funding] issues have tended to obscure what the governor [Michael Dukakis] has done to help gays. If a little slow in recognizing the seriousness of the AIDS problem, the administration has nonetheless been reasonably good on AIDS funding...."

"...the record suggests that what Dukakis really is is a socially moderate middle-aged man with traditional values, a man concerned about AIDS, dedicated to the concept of equal rights for everyone, and certain of the importance of the traditional family. That last conviction may upset the gay community, and it may have made for a less than ideal foster-care policy.... But it does not mean that the governor is a bigot."

In arguing against Dukakis' foster-care policy, gay leaders have maintained that a person's sexuality is only one of many things that should be considered in judging his [sic] fitness to be a foster parent. Dukakis may lack perspective on that issue, but it's also true that in judging a person's character and commitment, and arriving at a conclusion about his basic decency, one has to consider the total person and what he stands for, and not just one narrow aspect of his record. As last week's protest shows, the gay community too has lost its perspective."

—Kim Westheimer

ghost of gay minister haunts geneva

GENEVA — Parishioners at a church picnic here got a taste of the next life when the ghost of a gay minister they had fired visited the gathering. According to the Philadelphia Gay News, the ghost of Roland Regnier appeared giggling and skipping through the picnic grounds. The 90 picnickers fled the scene, overturning tables and benches in their haste.

Some members of the church said Regnier had promised to haunt the congregation after he was expelled.

Regnier was found dead six months after the firing, apparently stabbed by his lover in a Geneva hotel.

—Stephanie Poggi

south australia joins quarantine advocates

SOUTH AUSTRALIA — A bill recently introduced into the South Australian parliament contains sweeping powers to arrest, examine and lock up people suspected of suffering from AIDS or 51 other diseases including hepatitis and measles.

Under the proposed legislation authorities will be able to use "reasonable force" to arrest suspected disease sufferers and hold them in custody for up to two days while they undergo a medical examination. In the "interest of public health," a person could be quarantined for up to six months on a magistrate's order.

—Kendall Lovett

gay man attacked by aids volunteer impersonator

SAN FRANCISCO — A gay man was recently attacked by a person posing as a food delivery man from an AIDS group, according to the San Francisco Sentinel.

The gay man was beaten and strangled with a telephone cord after opening the door to his apartment for a man claiming to be an "AIDS volunteer distributing food" for the Open Hand Project. Open Hand provides two meals daily to people with AIDS.

Open Hand founder Ruth Brinker says her organization has taken action to prevent similar incidents. "We are putting warnings in the bag lunches to alert people to this man's actions and will give our volunteers an Open Hand ID."

—Marc Stein

soothing in seattle

SEATTLE — SOOTHE (Seattle Organization of Teenage Homosexuals with Energy) is off the ground with 20 members, according to the Seattle Gay News. The new youth group was started by Dawn Touchant Prince, after she received a letter from a young lesbian in response to an article on teenage gay people. "Her letter reminded me just how lonely most teenage homosexuals are," said Prince.

SOOTHE has a policy of non-discrimination on the basis of race, religion, disability, class or age. However, a note of guardian consent is requested for members under 18 years of age.

—Marc Stein

new mass. aids plan

BOSTON — Increasing AIDS education and availability of HIV tests was the main focus of a state AIDS plan announced by Governor Michael Dukakis on June 11, according to the Boston Globe.

Dukakis, who had previously gone on record in favor of forced HIV testing for all potential immigrants, announced he would only approve mandatory testing for immigrants from countries where AIDS is endemic. In addition, he endorsed forced testing in the military.

Expressing opposition to mandatory testing for other populations, Dukakis called for expanded voluntary testing for marriage license applicants, prisoners and people who are considered at high risk for HIV positivity. In order to accommodate growing numbers of people who may be encouraged to take the HIV test, Dukakis proposed the establishment of 19 new voluntary, anonymous testing sites. The state currently has nine sites.

In addition, Dukakis's AIDS program would include an AIDS curriculum for school systems, an educational brochure to be mailed to every household in the state in early fall and public service announcements for radio and television. The announcements would be geared towards young people and people of color.

In announcing his plan, Dukakis reiterated his opposition to distributing condoms in schools and prisons and providing free sterile needles to IV drug users. He said he opposes the disclosure of HIV results to public health authorities.

—Kim Westheimer

Disability and life insurance applicants at risk

Dukakis May Lift HIV Test Ban on Insurance

By Kim Westheimer

BOSTON — Governor Michael Dukakis may overturn a state policy preventing insurers from testing applicants for HIV antibodies. Despite statements to that effect from sources within the administration, spokespersons for Dukakis maintain that he has made no decision regarding HIV testing and insurance companies.

The debate on insurance companies and HIV testing stems from a policy statement released by the State Division of Insurance in December of last year. The policy, sent to insurers by Commissioner of Insurance Peter Hiam states, "At the present time, we believe that the potentially devastating effects on individuals that could result from the widespread use of HIV antibody testing by insurance companies are far greater and more serious than the potential harm to insurers that could occur from a prohibition of such testing. Our position is based on concerns about the accuracy of the HIV antibody test and the confidentiality of antibody results."

The policy affects individual buyers of health, life and disability insurance — not group insurance plans. Eighty-five percent of all plans sold in the state are group plans and the majority of the remaining 15 percent are covered by Blue Cross and Blue Shield which are heavily regulated by the state.

At least ten insurance companies have brazenly ignored Hiam's policy and continue to use HIV tests. Since February of this year the Division of Insurance has been conducting administrative proceedings to prevent these companies from testing. Insurance companies, who claim their financial solvency will be endangered without HIV testing, have threatened to sue the Division. A number of companies have reportedly hired a law firm to prepare such a suit.

Hiam maintains that he stands by the current policy which asserts that until "objectional features" of HIV testing by insurance companies, including lack of "privacy, lack of counseling, and accuracy" are "reduced," the ban on testing should be continued. In addition, said Hiam, any change in testing policy must be based on a determination that the policy threatens the financial soundness of insurance companies.

But a decision on the issue is no

longer within Hiam's control. Higher-ups in the Dukakis administration, including Secretary of Consumer Affairs Paula Gold, have garnered that decision-making power. "The decision is out of my office," acknowledged Hiam. "The policy is under review by the Governor."

Gold, who since the beginning of this year has been conducting separate meetings with lesbian and gay activists who she terms "advocates" and with insurance industry representatives, is also clearly involved in the decision-making process. Gold said she is working "closely with the Governor's office" but there is "no decision as of now to change it or do anything with it. We've been exploring for many months whether there is a reasonable approach to the issue other than [the current policy]."

But according to "advocates" who met with Gold on June 16 it sounds like a policy change has been determined. Denise McWilliams, who heads the AIDS Law Project for Boston's Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders, said she left the meeting convinced that "the administration would permit [HIV] testing in life insurance and non-cancellable disability insurance.... I understand that Gold's office has been informing others that [Dukakis] has changed his opinion [to prevent HIV testing]."

"The Governor has maintained an open mind on this issue," maintains Jim Dorsey, press secretary for Dukakis. "He has not made a decision one way or another."

"Dukakis is running for President and I'm sure he's interested in being seen as pro-business," commented Paul Wright, chair of the board of directors for the Boston AIDS Action Committee. "But it's also in his interest to be seen as pro-consumer."

Wright said he was dismayed by the consideration of HIV testing for disability insurance at the meeting with Gold. "This was really the first time that we had specifically been told they were moving on disability insurance. Disability insurance is a crucial form of insurance when you're talking about AIDS or other diseases — particularly with AIDS as it moves into the stage where people who are affected by the disease live longer."

"By allowing the test to be used people would be intimidated from even applying for insurance. This is a consumer issue. Life, health, and disability insurance should be viewed as a necessity."

McWilliams said she did not believe HIV testing would remain limited to those types of insurances. "Once you permit testing for one [type of insurance] it is impossible to justify excluding [testing for other types]." McWilliams assessment is congruent with what many activists have feared since the meetings with Gold began. Months ago it was clear that the administration was considering changing the policy for life insurance companies, but activists assumed that for health and disability insurance the policy would remain intact — at least temporarily.

"Even leaving the civil liberties arguments aside, the state has not

made any attempt to fill in the gap for those people [who may be] denied disability insurance," added McWilliams. "At the minimum I would expect the policy to make allowances for people who now won't be able to purchase insurance." People who are excluded from insurance may have to wait up to two years before they are eligible for coverage from the federal government, noted McWilliams. "For those [people with AIDS] who have to be without insurance for two years that waiting period could well be devastating."

Lesbian and gay men have not been taken seriously in the meetings with Gold, claimed McWilliams. "We have been treated to a fairly elaborate dog and pony show [with no purpose] other than for the administration to say we have consulted with the gay community."

Earlier this year the division of

insurance sent out questionnaires to insurance companies to examine their claim that HIV testing is a financial necessity. Thirty out of thirty-nine insurance companies have returned completed questionnaires. According to Gold and Hiam, analysis of those questionnaires has not yet been completed.

Insurers have argued that non-cancellable disability insurance as well as life insurance poses a greater risk for the companies because of the higher payments which can result from such policies. Failure to screen applicants for HIV antibodies for those policies would therefore be more financially costly than in the case of health insurance.

But insurers have been clear all along that they do not believe the state should intervene in their ability to conduct HIV tests for any type of insurance. "If life and

Continued on page 6

Outlines born of Windy City Times walk-out Chicago's Gay Paper Wars

By Michael Botkin

CHICAGO — The paper wars are on again with the June 4 emergence of *Chicago Outlines*, a new lesbian and gay publication. Tracy Baim, until recently managing editor of *Outlines'* competition, *Windy City Times*, led most of that paper's editorial staff in a walkout to found the new paper. To many this looks like history repeating itself, for *WCT* itself was founded two years ago when its publisher, Jeff McCourt, led a walkout from the long established *Gay Life*. The two papers, *GL*

communicate her discontent prior to the buyout offer," he said. McCourt denies ever offering Baim partial ownership or management input. "She wanted power, although she had plenty. She had full editorial freedom, and I can't see what further autonomy she could've wanted." McCourt is also skeptical about *Outlines'* ability to survive. "WCT is very established; we're the first gay paper to sign a major department store on as a regular account. We've already refilled all of the va-

vertising as comparable editions of *WCT*. According to Baim of *Outlines*, "The long term will show the differences; we plan to go beyond headlines and give more analysis, to have a more national focus and more representation from the Black and Latin communities." Baim also said *Outlines* will "represent all views a little better" than *WCT*.

One of the few clear immediate differences between the papers is that *Outlines*, the first Chicago gay paper with a greater number of



and *WCT*, co-existed for only five months before *GL*, gutted of virtually all of its staff, folded. But the historical similarity may stop there; *WCT* is far from being in the desperate state that *GL* was, nor has *Outlines* walked off with the bulk of its rival's advertising as *WCT* did.

"We felt that Jeff McCourt wasn't managing the paper as we thought he would when we helped him find it," said *Outlines'* Tracy Baim. "We wanted the management to be more responsive to the staff. Too many promises had been broken, like offers of

partial ownership, editorial input into management and staff health insurance. A lot of people were on the brink of quitting because they couldn't feel good about themselves working for *WCT* anymore."

Sharing these feelings herself, Baim put together a group of investors, *Outlines'* current shareholders, and offered to buy *WCT* from McCourt. When McCourt refused to negotiate, Baim led a walkout of *WCT*'s staff, including assistant editor William Burkes, assistant advertising manager Jill Burgin, and virtually all of the female staff. The new paper will have a two-tiered structure, with an independent editorial staff reporting to a board of directors.

WCT publisher Jeff McCourt has a different view of the split. "It was very unprofessional; Tracy Baim never made any effort to

women than men on staff, focuses much more on the women's community than *WCT* ever did. When Baim stresses representation of "all views," it is partially to reassure the gay men in the community that *Outlines* will not become a predominantly women's paper. This is the first time that one of Chicago's gay papers has had to defend itself from concerns that it will give too much attention to the women's community, instead of too little. But overall *Outlines* is playing down such differences, and Baim prefers to focus on the new paper's qualitative superiority instead.

Baim believes that Chicago can support two gay papers. "*WCT* was never supported directly by gay dollars. Most of the money came from mainstream advertisers." Others are less optimistic; the tradition of Chicago being a one-gay-paper town (with the exception of *Gay Chicago*, a bar magazine) is well established and many expect one of the papers to fold before the year is out. However, Chicago's gay community is larger and more vocal than ever before, having been stung into action by the defeat of a lesbian/gay rights bill last summer. For the moment, at least, Chicago has two gay newspapers; it's possible that this city's lesbian/gay community has grown to the point where it can support both.

Top Court to Review Firing of Gay Agent

By Chris Bull

WASHINGTON, DC — The Supreme Court agreed June 8 to hear a government appeal of a circuit court decision allowing a gay man to contest his firing by the CIA.

The employee, identified as John Doe to protect his status with the CIA, was fired in May of 1982 when he told a CIA security official that he was gay. Late CIA director William Casey suspended and then dismissed Doe despite his rating as an "excellent" worker.

In 1986, Judge Barrington Parker of the U.S. Court of Appeals for D.C. granted Doe the right to pursue his claim that the firing violated his constitutional rights. Since passage of the 1947 National Security Act, the government has argued that the military and the CIA have "unreviewable authority to discharge an officer or employee."

Doe began work in 1973 for

the CIA as a typist and was promoted to electronics technician, a sensitive security position, according to the CIA. Doe's attorney, Mark Lynch of the American Civil Liberties Union, said that his client deserved an explanation of his firing after eight years of excellent performance in a security position.

According to Lynch, the outcome of the case could negatively impact thousands of federal employees who have security clearances because they could be fired without recourse to judicial review.

While Judge Parker ruled that Doe deserved a hearing, he wrote, "We must uphold the [CIA] Director's decision unless it is arbitrary, capricious, an abuse of discretion, or otherwise not in accordance with the law."

—filed from Boston

Community Voices

should we have shown genitals?!

Dear GCN:

I am writing in response to Christopher Wittke's June 7th article titled "Taking a Walk to Raise Money for AIDS." As a member of the gay community and a participant in the organization of FROM ALL WALKS OF LIFE '87, I was both angered and frustrated after reading your comments on our walk, specifically regarding the logo and the public service announcements.

First of all it was evident to me, as it was to others who looked at the logo, that there was in fact a male couple present. I do not understand what could have been done to make this more evident to you, Mr. Wittke. Should we have shown genitals? In addition to criticizing our logo, you also attacked our PSA's as being "bereft of identifiable gay people." What do gay people look like? I believe we look like the people in the PSA. Are you suggesting that we wear symbols denoting our sexual preference as Adolph Hitler dictated in Nazi Germany, or tattoos as some public figures now suggest?

I am disappointed and disheartened that your organization would print such an article. You suggest we are "alienating the community from which we grew." I suggest on the contrary, Mr. Wittke, that it is you who is alienating the gay community. The effect of your egregious assertions is to drive a wedge through the community which we have all sought to unite.

Your final statement, that we call next year's walk "FROM ALL WALKS OF LIFE and every other corner of the GAY AND LESBIAN COMMUNITY," is completely counterproductive to what was successfully achieved in FROM ALL WALKS OF LIFE '87. Do you suggest that we promote the walk as a gay event? AIDS as a gay disease? In addition, do we alienate the straight community because at one time we were alienated? I think not. I think we show them the care and compassion that was once denied us, making us better men and women.

The AIDS Action Committee is an organization that has worked diligently and honorably to heal the wounds and console the wounded of our community. In turn you are now seeking to deepen those wounds. You should be ashamed, Mr. Wittke and GCN editors, for perpetuating the myth that we are separate, different and less than.

Sincerely,
Steve Melvard
Brookline, MA

help stop mandatory testing

Dear GCN:

If any legal support groups are interested in litigating to try to stop the mandatory HIV testing of federal prisoners, I would be interested in being the initial plaintiff in a class action suit.

Sincerely,
Adam Starchild
04690-067
Federal Correctional Institution
Danbury, CT 06811

mohr beyond middle class?

Dear GCN:

I was quite startled — but also a bit amused — to read Sue Hyde's judgment that the Michigan Organization for Human Rights (MOHR) is "beyond middle class" (GCN centerspread, Vol. 14, # 40).

Apparently during her brief visit with us last January she forgot that I (at the time MOHR's vice president) picked her up in my bashed-up car with 150,000 miles on it. Nor does she seem to recall that I then brought her to my home: a somewhat decrepit old house in a poor Hispanic neighborhood of Detroit. And I wonder why she forgets that she had to keep her coat on in the cold and crowded MOHR office. Beyond middle class, indeed!

Apparently what Hyde does remember is that I later brought her to our annual board retreat, held at a rather ritzy resort hotel in northern Michigan. Well, excuse us, Sue, for being politically incorrect! This was our one weekend together and after an extremely hard and busy year, we felt like splurging.

Had Hyde been a little more responsible, she might have checked her facts a little before badmouthing us in a national paper. She would have found out that MOHR fully subsidized any board member who could not afford the retreat. She would have learned of our policy to provide free housing to any member who needs it in order to attend our monthly meetings or conferences (held throughout Michigan, because MOHR is a statewide organization).

And I am sure she would approve of the fact that MOHR has always had a limited-income membership of ten dollars — less than one-third the fee charged by the organization for which she works! Can't afford the ten bucks? MOHR gives free memberships to people who put in a few hours of volunteer work. We also provide free memberships to people with AIDS.

Hyde then has the gall to declare that the board members of MOHR are "in gay politics for [our] egos." Interesting observation, Sue, but let's be honest: who the hell isn't? I am personally doing what I'm doing in the cause because I am sick and tired of an oppressive society stomping on the egos of virtually every gay boy and girl that has ever grown up. And as we all know too well, many have never grown up, having chosen physical or spiritual suicide rather than fighting back.

Oh yeah, I agree that some especially insecure individuals use organizational politics to build up their battered egos. In fact, I've long believed that this is precisely the source of most of the internal strife that any mature organization has experienced. But given Hyde's incredibly superficial and inaccurate job at assessing MOHR's class consciousness, I have no reason to believe her judgment of our moral character is any better.

So I have to ask myself, "What's with Sue's diatribe against us?" Perhaps the answer is found in the fact that her comments about us come in response to the interviewer's questioning whether she has "sold out" or become a "homocrat" by leaving behind her direct-action politics to work at a very "mainstream" national organization.

Her defense consisted of blasting MOHR, despite the fact that our organization and hers have worked closely together for years; that we have

virtually identical goals; and that our strategies and tactics are similar. Indeed, the reason Sue visited us in the first place was to learn of our statewide system of grassroots organizing, a model she has since helped to propagate to other organizations elsewhere in the country.

Please Sue, don't turn on your friends — well, at least your comrades — in a defensive effort to relieve the guilt pangs of a radical gone mainstream. Look, I've gone through it myself. I now work at MOHR after several extremely busy years in radical, direct-action politics relating to Central America and nuclear disarmament. We each make choices for reasons we believe are good. I respect your choice. There is no need for any of us to smugly look down our noses at our comrades. Our work is too important for us to turn our anger and hurt on one another.

Sincerely,
Larry Cohen
Detroit, MI

GayCommunityNews

Cover design by Dan Mishkind
Frontispiece engraving of Walt Whitman in the first edition of *Leaves of Grass* (1855)
Harry Hay (L) photo © Marie Favorito 1983
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Opinions reflected in "editorials" represent the views of the paid staff collective. Signed letters and columns represent the views and opinions of the authors only. We encourage all readers to send us comments, criticism, and information, and to volunteer and become members.

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romantic or hot

Dear GCN:

I'm writing because I like what your paper says. I have written to a few other papers but my letters come back unopened.

I would also like any books you could send that are romantic or hot. In here [Wisconsin women's prison] we must use our minds to accompany masturbation and anything that would help stimulate the mind would be welcomed.

I'd like to write a bi-woman or lesbian. (Also gay men are welcomed as penpals.)

Well you folks take care and keep up the good work!

Eileen Donohue
971 County Highway K
Taycheedah, WI 54935

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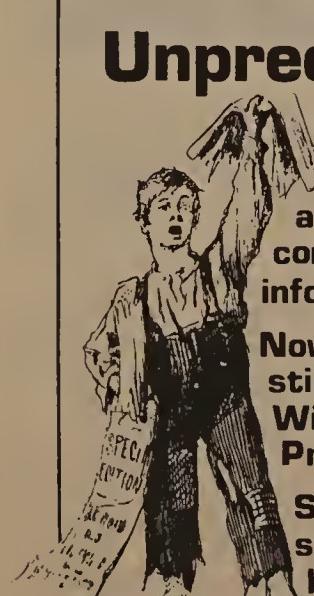
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Speaking Out

Times Have Changed at the Herald

By Ronnie Allen

The Boston *Herald* has not only been unsupportive of gay rights in its editorials, it has been downright hostile.

Local *Herald* columnists, Howie Carr and Peter Lucas, have written columns reflecting negatively on gays. Steve White, a *Herald* movie reviewer, has referred to gays as "queers." (3/13/86) Don Feder has been vociferous in his attacks on gay rights and gay people, to the point of practicing bigotry to an evil extreme. William F. Buckley and Norman Podhoretz, syndicated columnists, have written vicious anti-gay columns in the *Herald*.

In the last few months this torrent of animosity has spilled over onto the editorial pages. The following *Herald* editorials, I think, reflect this.

11/11/84

Attacking Seattle Archbishop Raymond Hunthausen and his supporters for, among other things, "refusing to follow the church's teaching on homosexuality," the editorial praises the Pope and Cardinal Law "for their uphill struggle to maintain some level of orthodoxy" and "courageously swimming against the tide."

12/3/86

This editorial attacks "the recommendation of a special advisory panel, which would facilitate the placement of foster care children with homosexuals" and suggests that the recommendation be rejected.

The *Herald* gives its reasons:

(1) "They [foster children] need love, attention, but most of all stability," which heterosexual not homosexual foster parents can give.

(2) "They require a home environment as conventional as possible." Again, only heterosexuals need apply.

(3) A gay foster home cannot "offer role models these children need for their future development."

Most gay people I know have heterosexual parents. So much for "role models."

2/4/87

Attacking those who wish to have a program for recruiting openly gay and lesbian people for the police dept., this editorial ends with a piece of *Herald* reality: "The [Boston]

police dept. does not discriminate in its hiring with regard to sexual preference...." Then why are there no openly gay officers in the dept.?

And most recently:

5/27/87

An editorial headed "No to Gay Rights Bill."

(1) The gay rights bill (before the Mass. Legislature) "would confer special privileges."

The *Herald* does not buttress its charge with supporting evidence.

(2) The legislation is unnecessary because "gays tend to be better off financially than the average American." Does that mean that gays at the poverty level deserve a gay rights bill denied otherwise to well-off gays? Is the *Herald* a Marxist newspaper?

(3) Gays can hide their sexual identity. In other words, we gays can "pass" as heterosexuals and thus do not need any special legislation. However the editorial doesn't go into the price paid by lesbians and gays who are forced to keep up appearances and hide their "nasty secret."

The *Herald*'s own sterling scrivener, Don Feder, believes that the danger in a gay civil rights bill's passage is that "a couple of drag queens or boys from the local leather bar" will show up on an unsuspecting home owner who will be forced to "welcome them — you should excuse the expression — with open arms." (4/14/86)

Or "a pair of transvestites appear at your door, dressed like Carmen Miranda and Zsa Zsa Gabor, inquiring about an advertised vacancy," and you, the home owner, "will be compelled to rent to them and watch the bizarre duo prance before your children."

(5/14/87)

The justification for the *Herald*'s stand against the gay rights bill is that gays are invisible as gays and therefore do not need protection. Feder's premise is that we all flounce around like Carmen Miranda, Zsa Zsa Gabor, like a "couple of drag queens" or like "the boys from the local leather bar." In other words, the home owner must be protected from obvious gays, yet the *Herald* says we don't need the law because "a potential employer or landlord has no way of knowing his (the gay applicant's) orientation."

Paper and columnist ought to check their logic with one another. Furthermore, most transvestites are heterosexual, and many straight "boys" are into leather.

(4) "Homosexuals are already entitled to exactly the same rights every other citizen enjoys." Can an openly gay man or lesbian become a cop, all things being equal?

(5) "The bill places society's sanction on homosexuality." In fact, it only proposes giving gays protection under the law that all other citizens have, in employment and housing.

(6) The civil rights bill should be defeated, according to the *Herald*, "for the preservation of family values." Which, of course, the *Herald* embodies with its drooling coverage of sex, violence and sensationalism.

The *Herald*, during Gay Pride Week a few years ago, printed daily the personal testaments of gay people in the Boston area. When the paper was purchased from the Hearst Corporation by Rupert Murdoch it covered the foster care battle of Don Babets and David Jean with more openness than the *Globe*.

I remember friends of mine in the gay community saying that they were pleased and surprised. And many began reading the *Herald* daily.

Times have changed. Maybe the readership should also.

Ronnie Allen is a long-time contributor to GCN who frequently writes articles on the media.

Community Voices

i've never felt excluded

Dear GCN:

I read about your proposed name change and I hope the change will be the one suggested, or adding lesbian, if you go ahead and change it at all. I have never felt excluded by the name, because it was so clear that lesbians and even people of color were included in the content. I see the name of a publication as a kind of trademark, one you have spent fifteen years to create and establish. A very different name from your present one would in some ways erase that fifteen year history.

For those of us who love GCN, we want it to always be a part of our lives. Perhaps LGCN, but not something completely different.

Whatever you decide, however, it's the quality of what's inside that counts, for which you will always have my support.

Sincerely,
Barbara Smith
Albany, NY

change the name!

Dear GCN:

I've lived in Boston for eleven years. I've been reading GCN for eleven years (and lived to tell about it). I urge you to change your name to *Gay and Lesbian Community News*! Why? Because those of us in our thirties (and up) who have grown up in and with gay liberation know now that gay means male to the majority. It behooves us to make our language inclusive. We will be making a proud statement of definition to ourselves and to the larger community.

most sincerely,
Anne L. Bourdon
Boston, MA

"Speaking Out" is part of our continuing effort to provide a true forum of opinion for the community. We encourage you to send your ideas, feelings, and comments to us and we encourage you to respond to any ideas expressed in this space. Submissions to "Speaking Out" should be TYPED and DOUBLE SPACED, and held to under 5 pages in length. The opinions expressed in "Speaking Out" do not necessarily reflect the view of the newspaper staff or the advertisers. Write c/o Speaking Out, GCN, 62 Berkeley St., Boston, MA 02116.

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Cheap Trills: Band Members Keep Having Fun

By Jan Murphy

Musical sounds. Trombones sliding through scales, trumpet notes bouncing off the walls, a bass drum booming erratically in the background. The sound of laughter.

The conductor, a tall slim man by the name of Mike McDonald, weaves slightly at a music stand. The sounds start to fade away. He taps his baton, and there is an expectant quiet.

"Let's start with 'I Left My Heart in San Francisco,'" says McDonald. The musicians rustle through their music folders and adjust their chairs. Someone starts humming, "I left my heart...."

Again the sounds fade away.

He raises his hands and looks at the musicians, their eyes fixed on the baton. The baton starts down, and the band springs to life on the first chord.

Another rehearsal of the Gay and Lesbian Freedom Trail Band of Boston has started.

McDonald leads the band to the end of the piece, cueing in the different instruments by leaning towards them. He bounces slightly as the music gets more energetic.

As the last chord of the piece fades away, someone groans and a few people giggle.

"I'd like to take it from section B — only the brass please," says McDonald.

Someone asks, "Do you have an extra part for a tenor sax — I can't find mine."

McDonald bends toward the woman who passes out the music while someone starts singing, "I left my part... in San Francisco."

People start giggling and singing other variations of the piece, then McDonald gets them back to order

and continues the rehearsal.

The Freedom Trail Band started about two years ago to lead the 1985 Gay Pride March through the Boston Common, according to Steven Levine, the band's bass drummer.

"At first there were only eight of us," said Levine about the weeks before the 1985 march. We had no drums and no brass — we didn't think there'd be enough people. And then a brass section arrived the day before on a bus from New York. They really helped us out!"

The 1985 march helped the band get started, said Levine, because more people wanted to join. During the same year, the band played occasional concerts at the bandstand in the Boston Common and also played in the 1985 Gay Pride March in New York City. Soon after the New York City march, once-a-week rehearsals started at the Boston YWCA on Clarendon Street. The band also joined the national organization of Lesbian and Gay Bands of America (LGBA), headquartered in Washington, D.C.

LGBA (pronounced "libba") is an association of 12 bands nationwide. It produces a monthly newsletter and has semi-annual conferences that gets together band members from across the country to play music.

In September of 1986, the Freedom Trail band set some long-term goals, in terms of planning their concert schedule. The band members who made up the Executive Committee — they do everything from deciding what the band wears to the music they play — set up a schedule of fund-

raisers and concerts for that year.

Today, the Freedom Trail Band has about 30 members that play everything from sousaphone, which is a marching-band tuba, to the French horn. The musicians range from those who are classically trained, like conductor Mike McDonald, to enthusiastic amateurs.

But there is more to this band than the talent and enthusiasm of the musicians, says Joe Evall, the president of the Executive Committee.

Evall has been playing in the

band since April 1985. Originally, he had planned to stay for only a few Boston Common concerts and the 1985 Gay Pride March in New York City. But he changed his mind.

"It was the warmth of the people — and it was kind of fun — that got me to stay," said Evall.

His comment echoes the feelings of other band members.

Perhaps the best example of the band's communal feeling was displayed during a recent rehearsal.

Gary Good, who is a clarinet

player and the assistant conductor, had been rehearsing the band in Mike McDonald's absence. Towards the end of the rehearsal, just before the last piece, Good said, "Being in this band has been the best thing that's happened to me since I moved to Boston."

And the members of the band started to clap and cheer.

For information about other gay/lesbian bands in the U.S., write: LGBA, P.O. Box 5709, Washington, D.C. 20037. Contact the Freedom Trail Band at 625-3304.

HIV Test for Insurance

Continued from page 3

health insurance companies are prevented from using medical information that would enable them to identify seropositive applicants who are at high risk of contracting AIDS or who actually have the disease, low-risk policyholders will have to pay higher premiums to subsidize them," stated the American Council of Life Insurance (ACLI) in a paper submitted to the Massachusetts Legislature in March of this year.

"That subsidy is not only unfair to those low-risk policyholders but also to life or health insurance applicants with other diseases. The result would be preferential status for a single medical condition."

ACLI media spokesperson Debby Chase said the issue of confidentiality was addressed at the May 15 board of directors meeting of the Medical Information Bureau (MIB). The MIB runs a centralized data bank which contains infor-

mation about individual applicants for insurance. Following the May 15 meeting, Chase said insurance applicants who test positive for HIV antibodies will be assigned a general code denoting a blood abnormality. Consequently it will not be evident that the person has AIDS.

Most companies who currently conduct HIV tests do so only for people who take out policies beyond \$100,000 or \$150,000, said Chase. If companies were not allowed to weed out high risk applicants at that level, the financial impact would be severe, she asserted.

Benjamin Schatz, the director of the AIDS Civil Rights Project for National Gay Rights Advocates, countered the insurance companies' financial claims regarding HIV testing in an article published recently in the *Harvard Law Review*. Schatz claims that insurance companies have "greatly

exaggerated the cost of AIDS to the point of ignoring studies by the American Council on Life Insurance and the Health Insurance Association of America in their calculations."

Schatz also noted that "underwriting is by no means the only way for insurers to decrease their AIDS-related expenses. For example, AIDS-related medical costs can be significantly reduced when alternatives to hospital care are explored. Yet [according to a] ACLI/HIAA survey...barely half of the nation's insurers allow individual (nongroup) claimants to be reimbursed for home health care and that less than 30 percent pay for hospice care. By expanding coverage of these less expensive forms of treatment, insurance companies could cut costs considerably while continuing to cover people with AIDS."

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Fruits Present a Queen of an Evening

I Am What I Wear, written and directed by Abe Rybeck. Presented by the United Fruit Company with Rybeck, John Griffin, Danny Schultz, Stephen Harrington, Andrew Wicker and Read Weaver. At the Alley Theater, Cambridge, June 18-21.

By Don Hill

All too often, gay men and women — especially those whose politics are left of center — find that going to the theater requires what English teachers call “willing suspension of disbelief.” Given the scarcity of gay theater companies and the commercial pressures under which those that do exist find themselves, rarely are audiences treated to performances that are not sanitized for heterosexual and/or conservative consumption. United Fruit Company, a group of six Boston gay men, aims to change that. “I Am What I Wear,” the Company’s latest offering of entertainment with social and political relevance, was presented recently at the Alley Theater in Cambridge.

Perhaps it should be mentioned here that the “Fruits,” as they call themselves, perform in drag. Politically incorrect, you say? Hardly. Their drag is, first of all, of the genderfuck rather than the female impersonation variety. In addition, during the course of the evening, they take sharp aim at U.S. policy in Central America, reactionary views towards AIDS and other topics close to the leftist heart. All this with irreverence and an outrageous, campy sense of humor.

“I Am What I Wear” is a collection of nine skits held together rather precariously by a fashion show theme. At the beginning of each skit, the principal actors are introduced to and paraded before the audience by a “Celebrity Moderator” — Miss Kitty Van neer — whose outfit never changes during the course of the show despite the different bodies inside. Highlights of the evening included “The Way,” a swipe at religious fundamentalism, “Suck Your Blood,” a look at conservative histrionics surrounding the AIDS crisis, and “Big Demonstration,” a wonderfully funny look at the world of political demonstrations. The evening included works entitled “Grand Old Fag,” “People’s Distress Airline,” “Madge for Contra Aid,” and “On Broadway.”

In “The Way,” the Fruits turn

the tables on bible-thumping fundamentalists by touting a new theology which rejects their standard fascist line and glorifies gay male sexuality. A preacher and his flock of four “church ladies” perform a service for the audience that includes preaching and hymns, notably “Cock of Ages” played on the congregants’ body parts by the church organist, Ms. Fellatia Feeley. John Griffin, as Ms. Feeling, is delightful: prudish one moment, caught up in “religious” ecstasy the next, all the time looking like a maiden aunt (despite, or perhaps because of his beard).

Griffin and Andrew Wicker are the performers in “Suck Your Blood,” the funniest and least didactic of the works presented. Wicker plays a vampire in search of nourishment who invades the home of a young man. Just as he is about to bite Griffin’s neck, he encounters several things which make him hesitate: the music he hears is the young man’s Barbra Streisand 24-hour background tape and on a wall is a picture of Judy Garland crucified. Realizing that the man is gay, he reveals his true identity (William F. Suckley) and threatens

to tatoo Griffin’s “wee-wee.” Griffin retaliates, and in true Wizard of Oz style, dispatches Suckley with a bucket of used condoms.

“Big Demonstration” is a showcase for Abe Rybeck who also directed most of the evening’s pieces. In it, Rybeck reluctantly agrees to join a political



demonstration for a cause about which he knows nothing. His main concern in fact, is what one wears to such events. Rejecting the advice of a friend (who suggests the standard jeans and t-shirt), Rybeck shows up emulating the dress of Jackie Onassis, who after all was also “political.” Things don’t go as planned, however, and the demonstrators are arrested, setting up even more hilarious shenanigans. Rybeck is undoubtedly the finest comic actor of the bunch with a magnetic stage personality, a winning smile, and expressive face and flawless delivery of lines.

United Fruit Company was originally formed to provide upbeat, issue-oriented, entertainment at political rallies and other such functions, which the group’s founders felt were, in a word, dull. By most accounts, this goal has been fully met. If the recent performance was any indication, the Company’s transition to the “legitimate” stage will have an equally positive effect on the Boston theater scene. “I Am What I Wear” is indeed what Ms. Van neer called a “queen of an evening’s entertainment.”

Barry Stanton Kohn

By David Lebe

RADNOR, PA — Gay and bisexual activist Barry Stanton Kohn died of AIDS on June 2 at his mother’s home here. At 44, he had worked as a counselor, writer, lawyer, model, singer, waiter and pastry chef.

Born in Philadelphia, Barry grew up in the suburb of Merion. He graduated from Temple University in 1964 and from Dickinson Law School in 1967.

Barry’s concern throughout his life was to help people reach their full potential. Perhaps most noteworthy in this regard was the book he co-authored with his wife, Alice Matusow, *Barry and Alice: Portrait of a Bisexual Marriage* (Prentice-Hall, 1980). The book served to heighten the awareness of the public at large and of the nation’s many bisexuals that there were many who embraced an alternative lifestyle. Barry subsequently appeared on the TV-radio talk show circuit, which included two interviews on the *Phil Donahue Show*.

Barry also founded a support group for gay and bisexual married men. Begun in the spring of 1976, it was the first of its kind in the Philadelphia area and continues to function today.

His other work included serving in Panama as a member of the Peace Corps from 1967 to 1969 and practicing poverty law for Community Legal Services in Philadelphia. He also directed the Civil Rights and Civil Tensions Unit of the Pennsylvania Dept. of Justice from 1971 to 1977.

As a lawyer in the center of legal battles for civil and gay rights, Barry was appointed in 1975 by Pennsylvania Governor Milton Shapp to monitor the state’s efforts to end discrimination against sexual minorities. He was involved in the formation of the Governor’s Council for Sexual Minorities, the first such group of its kind.

In 1981, Barry moved with his wife, Alice, and son, Dan-

ny, to Sullivan’s Island off the coast of Charleston, South Carolina. There he became the editor of the Charleston *Alternative*, South Carolina’s only gay periodical.

In the last few years of his life, Barry had begun to organize a coalition for world peace from his home in Key West, Florida.



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A Question of Gay Context in Walt Whitman's Day

Calamus Lovers: Walt Whitman's Working Class Camerados

Charley Shively, editor
Gay Sunshine Press, San Francisco, 1987
\$10.00 223 pp.

Reviewed by Harry Hay

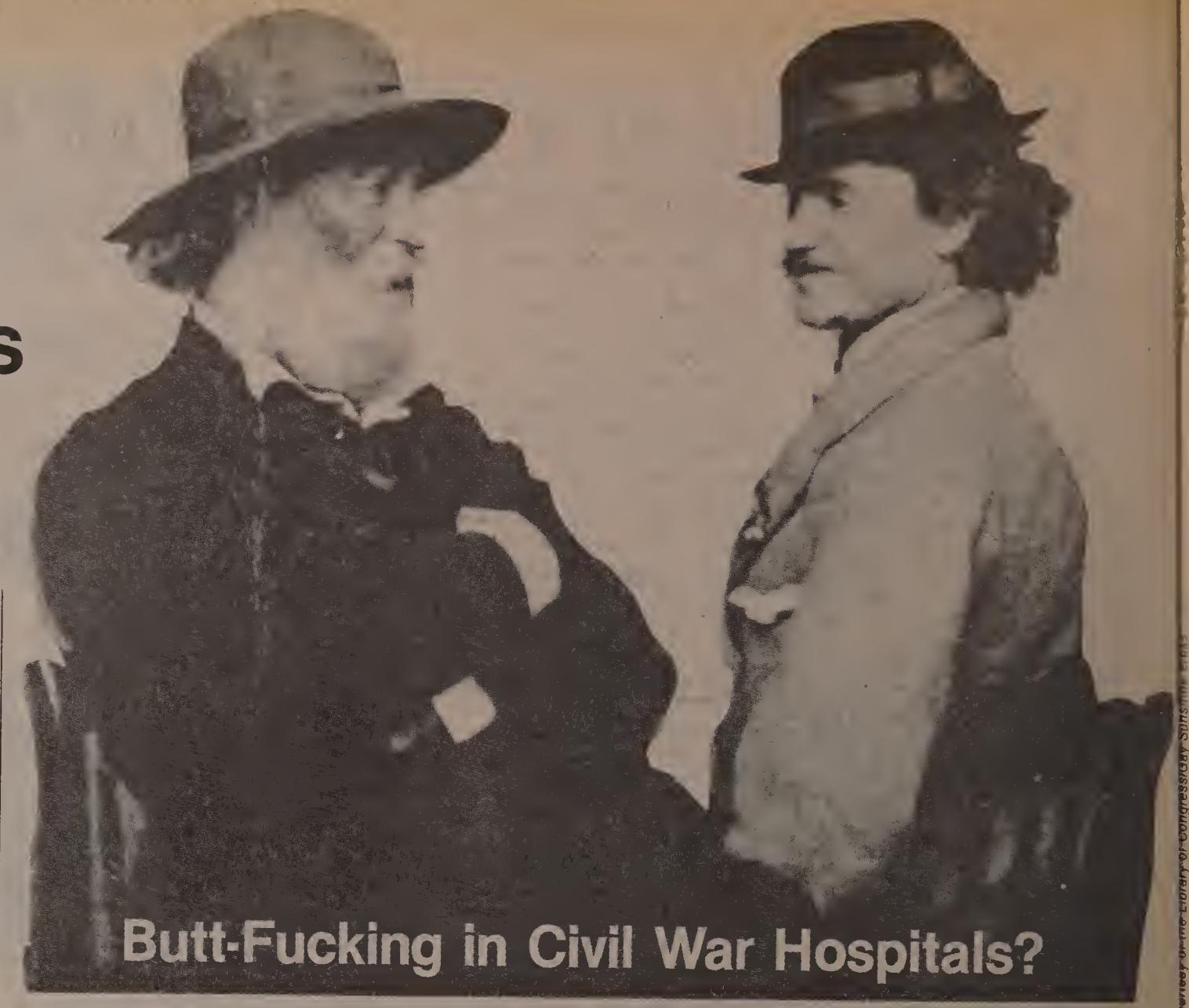
Charley Shively has had a fine rush of brains to the head and so gives us a novel projection of Walt Whitman. In *Calamus Lovers*, Dr. Shively projects how the poet might have seen his life, and how he might have spent his days, from the beginning of his affair with Fred Vaughn in about 1858, to the end of his life. The resulting *tour de force* — wrestling Whitman's notebook entries and letters into a chronological narrative form, sweeping the reader into the ebb and flow of Whitman's patterns of cruising and alternating with love affairs — is stunning indeed. I love Charley for the sure, and yet scholarly way he has rediscovered for all of us the fundamental intent of the encounters recorded in the notebooks and letters.

Having said that, and even as I say that, I have a nagging at the gut level that something is terribly wrong... not with the way Dr. Shively projects the intents of Whitman's gay encounters, but with the way he persists in clothing those intents with behaviors whose range and horizons could never have been crimped and corsetted and cramped down to fit the lean and narrow expectations of a cultural morality which — according to gay Canadian author Michael Lynch, in his forthcoming study of Walt Whitman's New York — prevailed from 1800 to the end of World War I. And continued to prevail (as I personally know through my own life) to the onset of World War II in what New Yorkers laughingly refer to as those American provinces west of the Hudson. Shively's speculations about gay behavior in Whitman's nineteenth century ignore totally the crippling distortions which the mind-set of the time would have superimposed.

The shape and scope of behavior, either singular or collective, is inevitably manipulated by the cultural mind-set of its historic context. It is dependent not only upon the vocabularies available for articulating possible action, but it is equally dependent upon the possible existence of appropriate channels through which energies could flow constructively to their fulfillment, or through which they may have had to be dissipated to spend themselves uselessly, unheard and therefore unexperienced. Undoubtedly there have been many times in many cultures when a gay sensibility appeared for which there was not yet a social application nor yet even a social appreciation. An illustration of this socio-cultural tragedy — in the field of technology — comes to mind. An English mathematician, Charles Babbage, in the 1870s invented extraordinary programs and logic systems foreshadowing the electronic computer: what was available to him with which to materialize his vision was the inadequate and insufficient mechanical technology of gears and pinions... what he needed were the technologies incumbent upon Bell Laboratories' transistor not to be invented let alone developed until the 1950s — some 80 years after Babbage's death.

Charley Shively and I, like gay researchers Louis Crompton and John Boswell and Alan Bray to name a few, strive mightily to lift the curtains deliberately dropped over our gay and lesbian heritage. Yet we must at times pause to engage in fervent arm-wrestling, grunting and sweating, as in this review. In this case, while having brilliantly recreated the gestalt of Walt Whitman as a flesh-and-blood gay brother and passionate advocate of our lovely oral sexuality, Charley Shively has unwittingly exceeded the limitations imposed by the discipline of historic research. Dr. Shively in his haste to materialize the beloved poet before our very eyes, is proceeding to — in effect — clothe Whitman in last year's styles discarded from Shively's own closet, instead of the musty antiques pressed away in the trunks of Grandma's attic that Whitman actually would have worn. In a phrase, Shively is furnishing Walt Whitman with a mind-set which was still a future dream to be struggled for until the alternate life-style explosions of the 1960s cleared the way for the Stonewall Rebellion and the Gay Liberation cornucopia of the 1970s.

We are not only concerned with the mind-set, and its permissions for potential behaviors, of our Good Gray Poet. We must also be concerned with comprehending the possible cultural mind-set of the working class and displac-



Butt-Fucking in Civil War Hospitals?

Inscribed in Whitman's hand: "Washington, D.C. 1865 — Walt Whitman & his rebel soldier friend Pete Doyle."

ed farmer young men whom Whitman fancied. Great numbers of these — Vaughn, Sawyer, Fox, Brown, Bush, Cunningham, Palmer, Wallace, Doyle, Stafford, Duckett — were Scottish, Irish, or English men who very well may have immigrated with their fathers, or been sons of fathers and mothers who had immigrated in the generation just before, from the centuries-old devastating misery and squalor of British or Irish city streets.

And just what might have been the mind-set of these beset and impoverished people in the early 1800s? J. Brown's pamphlet, *Trying and Pillorying of the Vere Street Club* (London, 1810), informs us. In preface to J. Brown's descriptions, a few remarks about life in eighteenth century London might be useful. (For the following quotations and for the data powerfully illuminating the mindset of Britain and its spheres of influence in the century between 1750 and 1850, I am very much indebted to Dr. Louis Crompton's *Byron and Greek Love*, itself a brilliant exercise in our crusade to recover our beloved gay and lesbian culture and history.)

In eighteenth century London, the cultural arts — music, opera, masques, ballets, plays, poetry readings, philosophical discussions, all of which once had been the reserved prerogatives of aristocratic courts — had devolved into pastimes for those who could afford to give time and space to them. Noble families, like the Spencers or Churchills of Marlborough, who had attracted money through middle-class marriages, developed salons wherein poets and musicians, actors and dancers performed, and wherein educated upper-class men and women as well as the educated wealthy of the middle-class developed the art of culturally or philosophically "informed" conversation. But the bulk of middle-class men, whose houses were more family-oriented and less suited to social ostentation, came together in certain public houses which soon became referred to as clubs. At Raleigh's Tavern, men came together to enjoy singing the catches and glees of Henry Purcell and John Gay — in the 1700s they would sing John Blow, Thomas Arne, and George Frederick Handel. At Swan's Tavern, men gathered to listen and perhaps dissent, to the philosophers Defoe and Swift, and later to the politics of Addison and Steele. At White's Coffee House, investors and businessmen came to hear about what cargoes had arrived and what ventures were sailing — in effect to participate in buying and selling of "the action." In a phrase, these "specialty" concerns — of which the salons were definitely a part — paralleled what we today might classify as "affinity groups."

It should not surprise present-day scholars that a group of people who seemed to know one another "by secret signs," and known to history from the twelfth century forward through legal proscriptions and the denunciations of Papal Bulls as *molles* (in latin: "soft, gentle," and by inference "effeminate") might also have been said to have their affinity groups also? It is time that gay historians at least should begin to accord them that distinction. We equally would have no reason *not* to assume that they also might have produced plays, masques, ballets, poetry and play readings by, for *and with* their members. We will in future begin to know more of the names of these clubs, and then begin to spot the pastimes of such clubs as well as the variety of the people who may have attended, as we begin to re-examine the diaries and journals of the era. For the present, we know of these clubs primarily as "Molly Houses of ill repute" in the records of the British Courts and Assize in the seventeenth through nineteenth centuries, and we

are told by those who should know better that these places were attended mostly by men of the lower classes. It appears to be bad form, currently, to reveal that the *mob* were not very concerned about class differences and that the clientele of their clubs numbered rich men as well as poor ones.

J. Brown's pamphlet on the trying and pillorying of some habitual visitors to the White Swan Tavern of Vere Street informs us that on July 8, 1810, there was a raid on this club and that most of the men apprehended were charged with "assault with the intention to commit sodomy." Six were sentenced to stand in the pillory — which in American Colonial days would have been called "standing in the stocks." Death by hanging or public torture in the pillory, which usually resulted in some measure of permanent disfigurement or injury, awaited any person suspected or sentenced for gay sexual behavior. Court arraignment could result from malicious gossip, blackmail or even something so tenuous as an unguarded (or uncoded) word in a letter happened upon by household servants of tradesmen, by disaffected family members or any of the business or private enemies one could collect in town living. Dread of the pillory was a constant and imperious oppression, as letters between the close members of Byron's affinity group attest. And with good reason. To quote Brown's 1810 publication:

At an early hour, the Old Bailey was completely blockaded and the increase of the mob about 12 o'clock put a stop to the business of the Sessions. Shortly after 12, the ammunition wagons appeared... consisting of butcher boys' carts filled with offal, dung, and slops appertaining to their several slaughter-houses. A number of hucksters... carried on their heads baskets of apples, potatoes, turnips, cabbage-stalks and other vegetables, together with the remains of divers dogs and cats.... Fishwomen attended with stinking flounders and the entrails of other fish which had been in preparation for several days... bails of mud were piled up.

Crompton noted that foreign visitors, when they saw the women on the street savaging prisoners, were reminded of the harridans of the French Revolution. In London, however, the police presumably controlled the semi-lynching which were supposed to stop short of murder, though "was never certain that the exposed men would survive the ordeal." J. Brown continues:

Before the cart reached Temple-bar, the wretches were so thickly covered with filth, that a vestige of the human figure was scarcely discernible.... Some of them were cut in the head with brickbats, and bled profusely; and the streets, as they passed, resounded with the universal shouts and execrations of the populace.

Before any of them reached the place of punishment, their faces were completely disfigured by blows and mud... women were permitted to stand in the ring, who assailed them incessantly with mud, dead cats, rotten eggs, potatoes, and buckets filled with blood, offal, and dung.... The head [of one of the men pelted] of this wretch when he returned to Newgate [prison] was compared to a swallow's nest. It took three buckets of hot water to restore it to anything like a human shape... he is at present totally blind.

Just the news of the Vere Street police raid seemed to have brought a mob threatening to kill the prisoners, even before they were tried. Those dismissed without conviction were attacked by the mobs at the doors, who assailed them with sticks and stones. Apparently as far as the populace

was concerned, to be accused was to be guilty. What was heartening in all this mob barbarousness was Dr. Compton's evidence that even though most of the men in the Vere Street trial were working-class men, members of Lord Byron's upper-class coterie so positioned themselves at the court sessions, and even where possible at the pillory sites, that they could be observed as standing in silent solidarity by the victims being tried or tortured. Charles Skinner Matthews, writing "in code (in case prying eyes should see the letter)" to Byron in 1811 of another such trial, says "[this] we risque our necks for: and are content to risque them."

The unbelievable (to our twentieth century sensibilities) fear and loathing of the homosexual persons as monster exhibited by the English-Irish-Scottish street mobs of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries (and echoed by the barbarous and often ruthless, though outwardly more genteel, proscriptions of the upper classes) must not be mistaken or misjudged for what it was not. For it was not homophobia, even as today's similar popular manifestations of Evangelical talk-shows, and in legislative halls when gay and lesbian political issues are debated, are also not necessarily homophobia. These manifestations may be symptoms of a widespread ignorance of who we are — as a people — where we might be coming from — as a people — and what we might be for — as a people! That revenging fear of us was (and still is in many places) a public ignorance deliberately whipped up into a highly flammable and therefore volatile religious hysteria by every branch of the media under eighteenth century ruling class control — the press, the street players and singers and hawkers of broadsides, and churches of every denomination. Aware of the dangerous subterranean pressures that widespread hunger, misery and despair were boiling up into potential volcanoes of rebellion among the masses of the cities' poor, these running dogs of reaction, preachers and street-preachers alike, went to work creating, then and now, safety valves whereby the mobs could blow off steam at little expense to the state. The endlessly repeated cant was biblical and therefore, in those ill-informed and illiterate centuries, above question! To paraphrase George Fox, the popular Methodist street-preacher in eighteenth century London,

God has turned his back on your cities of sin and blasphemy! God will condemn you all to starvation, the wombs of women will no longer quicken. God will loosen the scourges of the plague among you.... So long as ye permit sodomites to dwell unpunished among you!

There it was, the scapegoat technique illuminating, by every cultural artifact at the state's command, the one category, (all Puritan Britain was reminded through two centuries of having their noses rubbed with Old Testament rubrics), for which even God had no mercy. For the teeming masses of brutalized and bewildered peasants driven from their lands into the unemployed ranks in the cities, of the teeming masses of desperate working-class women driven beyond their wits to find food, shelter and clothing for their young, the scapegoating technique seemed to offer them the one weapon at the hand by which they could obliterate these monsters who appeared to threaten their continued existence.

Sir William Blackstone, the great codifier of modern English law whose commentaries dictated the penal codes to be found in every one of our U.S. state constitutions to this very day — no less than the driven and demoralized ragpickers of the London stews — fell victim to this soul-shrinking religious hysteria as devastating to intellect and to spirit as had been the Black Plague to the flesh. (And it is only fair to say that it was Blackstone's commentaries which shaped the venom in Supreme Court Justice Byron White's majority-voiced opinion in *Bowers v. Hardwick*.) This uncontrollable fear and loathing of the scapegoat, who was responsible for triggering God's wrathful visitations of unemployment and starvation on the English, Scottish and Irish cities, must be appreciated as basic to the cultural working class and middle class mind-sets of eighteenth and nineteenth century persons on both sides of the Atlantic, it having been implanted endlessly at mother's knee, and in father's lap.

I do not doubt for a moment that Whitman's young men thirsted for the male-to-male affection he offered, nor that they disdained to return it in whatever ways they could devise which seemed safe. Like the upper-class men of Byron's coterie, I suspect they were equally "content to risque their necks." But I don't believe that Walt Whitman and his working-class camarados were having at each other on the silent corners of the city's dark alleys, as Shively believes. Nor do I think that he and his young soldiers would "risque their necks" in the linen closets of the Civil War's makeshift hospitals at odd hours of the day and night. Nor am I persuaded, even with that wealth of luscious quotations that Charley provides, that the controversial term "gay" was, in Whitman's time, a term for anything other than risqué behavior, what one might expect from theater people to similar groups not considered "respectable."

To discover the behavior that clothed the passionate gay intentions of Walt Whitman, we should seek guidance from the Calamus Poems themselves:

Among the multitude,
I perceive that you pick me out by secret and
divine signs.

This 1859 recognition of an underground code between members of a world-wide minority echoes Byron's "Ours too the glance none saw beside; / The smile none else might understand," from the first of the Thyrza poems written on October 11, 1811. It was still true 67 years later in 1926

when 25-year-old beautiful, dark, mahogany, gleaming deck-hand Matt told me, a 14-year-old deck-hand, how our brothers had always found each other in far-away places like Zanzibar, though we had neither culture nor language in common. And it was still equally true for RG and me, in the busy lobby of Lester Horton's Dance Theatre Workshop one Saturday morning in July of 1950,

Whose happiest days were those far away through fields, in woods, on hills,
He and another, wandering hand in hand, they twain,
apart from other men.

Cowboy Ned Ramser, riding herd with me in the Lahontan Sinks of western Nevada in the early spring of 1932, told me about American soldiers in World War I who often couldn't manage much more than to walk with Britishers in Kensington Gardens at dusk and hold hands for a little while when the paths were otherwise empty. Ned and I, when working, could only manage once in a while to grind knees, or hold hands while walking our horses. And these subterranean patterns of oppression were still the rule on the range in the 1960s.

Another item that needs brief mention concerns boardinghouse sleeping behavior, since boardinghouse accommodations provided the housing for the majority of nineteenth and early twentieth century working class city-dwellers. Boardinghouses in the nineteenth century, as I remember being told by migratory workers, travelling salesmen and vaudeville performers whom I knew in quantities during the Great Depression, were generally pretty intolerant of any personal liberties on the part of the sleepers. The men I talked to in the 1920s and 1930s were full of stories of the violent reward for any guy who, as the phrase invariably went, couldn't "keep his frigging hands to himself." If he was lucky, he got told he'd have to sleep on the floor until he changed his ways. If he weren't so lucky, he got beaten within an inch of his life, and then thrown out into the rain or snow and told to get lost.

Perhaps the clearest description of Walt Whitman's customary bar behavior, and of the mind-set attitudes typical of Whitman's New York in 1859, is the poem which Shively believes was written when Whitman met the great love of his life, Fred Vaughn. Shively believes Vaughn to be the muse of the The Calamus Poems.

A Glimpse
One flitting glimpse, caught through an interstice,
Of a crowd of workmen and drivers in a bar-room around
a stove late of a winter night, and I unremarked seated
in a corner,
Of a youth who loves me and whom I love,
silently approaching and seating himself near,
that he might hold me by the hand,
A long while amid the noises of coming and going,
of drinking and oaths and smutty jest,
There we two content, happy in just being together
speaking little, perhaps not a word.

How many times have I, in bars from Greenwich Village to Hollywood, to which other gay men came occasionally, seated myself unremarked in a corner waiting for another to accidentally brush his leg against mine — it having been il-

legal, above table, to have so much as touched one another even inadvertently in Los Angeles and Hollywood as late as 1967.

Shively's presentation of the deep and thorough-going love affair between Whitman and Vaughn, and the poignancy of their mutual agreement to dissolve, achingly evokes other tragedies. Such tragedies awaited those who were forced to live their lives unaware of the history of their kind of outlawry, or of any folklore for nurturance and survival. Walt Whitman, in his grief when the Vaughan relationship fails, comes out in a great growth of spirit. Shively's sensitive handling of the letters and incidents of Whitman's sojourn at the hospital during the years 1863 and 1864 shows Whitman expanding from being a passionate observer to becoming the compassionate seer, counselor, priest, healer, and surrogate for Great Mother Nature in the way gay men have always served her when she asked, dispensing friendship when that was all the patient permitted, dispensing love and such sexuality as was shareable — in the mind-set of the time — when that was what was sought.

In contrast, the chapters covering the Peter Doyle and Harry Stafford periods in Whitman's life seem to indicate that Shively still has some homework to do. I would propose that he needs to find some approach which might reveal deeper insight into Doyle and Stafford. Both of these young men also grow and change during their relationships with Whitman, but we do not get any sense of what their relationships may have contributed to Whitman's growth and change, or of how their relationships with the poet might have influenced any of the poems developed during this period.

Acknowledging Shively's apology for the fragmentary nature of his book, and honoring Charley's fervent passion to make his study "consist of the ejaculations of one identity," I recommend that the second edition contain a topical index at the back of the book. And there should be many additional editions; this work just has to become a best-seller.

Shively's picture of Whitman and his lovers, as portrayed in the incidents recounted, the letters and the poems, reveals full-blooded sexual beings as joyously gay, as appreciative of fantasy, and as tormented by hetero misperceptions, as any contemporary gay collective in similar circumstances might be. But Shively's speculations about their behaviors totally ignore the crippling distortions which the mind-set of the time would have imposed. Had North American nineteenth century working-class young men been as sexually accessible as Shively would have us believe, upper-class British gay men would have come to the United States in droves instead of having to make the somewhat dangerous voyages to the Mohammedan Mediterranean as they did.

Even so, there is great value, for the development of gay studies, for Shively to overstate the case and force the reviewer to prove him wrong. For it is precisely through such struggles between author and reader, and between scholar and critic, that our beloved gay history, so long deliberately shredded or expunged, bit by bit re-emerges.



Walt Whitman, 1883.

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Houston's Ray Hill

Continued from page 1

ment stopped enforcing the law two years ago when the 5th Circuit Appeals Court ruled in favor of Hill. Hill, however, said that although the ordinance is used less often now, it is still in effect. At one point, the police were using the ordinance to arrest over 1,000 people per year, according to Hill and the Houston Human Rights League. Several reporters have also been arrested under the law, according to testimony before the Supreme Court.

"The police department was using the law to arrest gay people, Black people, dirty people, transient people and even, occasionally and by accident, 'respectable people.' All these people will now be entitled to compensation if they were arrested under the law," said Michael Manes, attorney for Hill.

Although the law was often used to arrest gay people, the court victory is not specific to gay and lesbian rights, according to Nan Hunter, director of the American Civil Liberties Union Lesbian and Gay Rights Project. Hunter said that the decision is a victory for all victims of illegal police power. Hill agreed that the legal issue has "no bearing" on the area of gay rights

law, but said it removes one of the tools the police use against people who stand up against the harassment of lesbians and gay men.

Hill, who said that the police department now treats him with "appropriate respect," was particularly pleased that the court's decision was not joined by Chief Justice Rehnquist. "For Rehnquist to have concurred, the decision would have been too narrow. His dissent allowed Brennan to write a landmark decision. One hundred years from now, if the republic survives, some young lesbian is going to shoot the finger at a police officer who is not minding his own business and the police will have to remember *Hill v. Houston*."

Hill said that his battle with the Houston Police Department is far from over. Just last week, according to Hill, they conducted "up against the wall, motherfucker" raids on two gay bars in Montrose, a heavily gay area of Houston. Hill described the raids as a reaction to the Supreme Court decision and the Houston Lesbian and Gay Pride march this weekend. The acting police chief, who claimed the department was merely

responding to complaints from the neighborhood and the alcohol beverage control board, apologized to Hill and promised that it "would not happen again." The Chief also ordered officers to be more sensitive to the concerns of citizens. Hill now expects "a peaceful completion of Lesbian and Gay Pride Week."

Vowing to monitor the police force as long as necessary, Hill testified before the court: "I would rather that I got arrested than those whose careers can be damaged; I would rather that I got arrested than those whose families wouldn't understand; I would rather that I got arrested than those who couldn't spend a long time in jail. I am prepared to respond in any legal, non-aggressive or non-violent way, to any illegal police activity, at any time under any circumstances."

Hill and Manes, who together successfully challenged in 1980 a Houston ordinance giving police the authority to demand proof of identity without cause, expect to receive \$700,000 in legal fees from the police department as a result of the court's decision.

—filed from Boston

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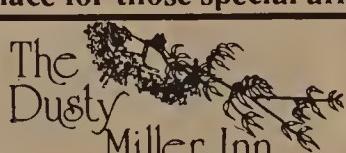
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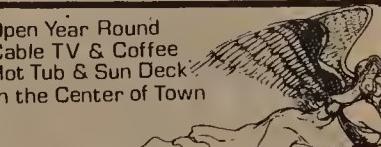
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Firefighter Robert Jackson

Continued from page 1

was being punished for his April 9 testimony before the City Council on conditions at the fire department. (See GCN, Vol. 14, No. 39) At those hearings Jackson said he has been harassed verbally, denied promotions, subjected to vicious notes attached to his locker, kept out of common meals and fired because of trumped up sexual harassment charges. Jackson was fired in 1979. He successfully appealed the decision and was rehired in 1980.

"Where does the local fire department find that they're a government secret agency and that nothing should be leaked out?" said Randy. "If Congress can call people to testify from the National Security department, why can't he be called before the City Council? This is a violation of his constitutional rights...that they can get away with punishing people who speak out against them."

Jackson has to "obey the same rules and regulations that apply to everyone," countered Captain Matthew Corbett, public information officer of the fire department. "Statements can only be made to the press by the public information officer." Jackson does have the right to speak before the City Council, according to Corbett. Corbett said he does not believe Jackson has been punished for addressing the City Council or the press.

Randy accused Boston Mayor Raymond Flynn and Fire Commissioner Leo Stapleton of allowing harassment against Jackson to continue. "Why hasn't the mayor taken action? For Ray Flynn not to openly say anything for or against this [harassment] means he condones it. The mayor is not interested in Black gays or Blacks as a whole." Given Jackson's charges against the fire department, Stapleton should have intervened to prevent Jackson's suspension, said Randy.

Corbett said Stapleton has not authorized an investigation because Jackson has not filed the necessary papers to warrant such action. Ann Maguire, Flynn's liaison to the lesbian and gay community, could not be reached for comment.

The firefighters union, which includes officers, has not provided any support to Jackson, according to Randy. "The international union in Washington needs to put the union in receivership to find out why the white shirts and the blue shirts are in the same union," he said.

Randy said Jackson has received support from the Vulcan Society, a union organization for people of color. In addition, firefighters have been making anonymous phone calls of support to their home. These calls have validated Jackson's charges, Randy noted.

But while on duty, Jackson remains isolated. White firefighters have used Jackson's homosexuality as a means to vent their racism, said Randy. In that process they have attempted to divide Jackson from other Black firefighters by making derogatory remarks about him. "The fact is they want no Blacks or people of color on the fire department," surmised Randy.

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LF, 32, looking for LF 25+ to share spacious sunny apt in Cambridgeport. Rent \$330+ util. Looking for someone independent, financially responsible and a jock at heart. No pets or smokers. Call 876-9836. (48)

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LF seeks same for spacious, sunny 2 bdrm Somerville apt. 2 porches, study, hdwd floors. No smkg/pets. Near bus/T. \$300+. Call 625-8825. (48)

Responsible LF sks similar 25+ to share 2 Br in Dorch. Nonsmoker preferred. Washer & porch. \$300 incl heat & hotwater. Leave message. 265-3109. (49)

LOWELL

Prof. GWM 26 sks rmte to shr beaut Ig Vict house apt, sun prch, WW frpl. \$275+. (413) 549-6075. Bogart. Leave message. (48)

LF seeks similar to share large Waltham apt. \$250+ utilities. No smkg, veg prfr. Call 893-4495. (48)

LF 35+ seeks prof LF 30+ to share Ig 2Bdr apt. No drugs/alc/pets. 2 porches W/D nr T. 10 minutes from Harvard Sq. \$375+. Avail immed July 1. 923-0476 (eves.) 485-7264 (days) Gail. No Smkr. (1)

DORCHESTER

Share 2 Family home W/D, D/W, off st parking, lg yard, 250+. Call 825-2722. (49)

Dorchester: Quiet, prof GWM seeks GM to share large, attractive apt. 10 min walk to T. W/D/DW, porch. \$325 + 1/2 util + deposit. Avail. 8-1. 282-9872. Not a sex ad; no weird requests, thanks. (49)

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COUNTRY SETTING

LF seeks same to share Ig house 30 miles so of Boston. Hdwflrs, wd stove, dishwasher, w/d, lg yard, pets considered \$375/mo inc util no smoke. 694-8944 leave msg on machine. (48)

YOUR NEW JP HOME

Two LF sk 2 more, 25+ to share great apt, progr polts, spirit, humor, food, w/d nr pond, arbrtm, Orng, Gr. lines. No smkng, pls. Avail immed. Call day or nite 524-6209. \$182.50/\$192.50. (50)

DAVIS SQUARE:

LF grad student 25, sks same. Lg 3 bd, yard, nr T respon., supportive atmos. No smoke, pet neg. \$275. Lisa 776-6612. Avail July 1. (*48)

WOBURN

GM 40 wants a male roommate \$75/wk incs heat and water also parking, pool & ac, phone nights 938-8901. Available July 1st. (49)

WALK TO THE POND

2LF seek LF to share 3 bdrm apt in JP near T & Pond. Must like animals but no more pets. Avail now! Call 524-3925. (48)

LF 31 & 2 cats lkg for feminist woman to shr. Ig, sunny apt. w/bkdy in W. Som. Friendly, resp & neat. No smkng/pets pls. \$275+. Call Eileen 628-6133. (48)

2L seek 3rd for Somerville apt. 2nd fl, sunny. Looking for non-smoker, 21+, responsible & FRIENDLY. Rent \$285+ utils. Call 628-7744 9:30pm wkdays. (48)

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Share our Ig home, sundeck, w/d, near T, quiet, on-street pkg. No smkng or pets. 2 rooms \$225-275 for single L. \$450 for L couple plus utils. 254-5929. (*48)

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LF, 30, seeks same to share rent control apt in Brookline. No smoking or pets. \$225 incl heat. 232-9349. (48)

J.P. — LF to share beautiful, sunny 2 Bdrm apt. Lots of trees, space - indoors and out. Non-smoker, neat, responsible, sense of humor & warmth to create a home. \$335 + util. Maria 522-0241 (E) 232-1958 (D) (49)

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JP APARTMENT WANTED

2 responsible women and 2 well-behaved cats seek reasonable 2BR apt in Jamaica Plain with yard/porchs for Sept. Call Andrea or Joy, 524-2906. (48)

\$200 REWARD

2LF + 2 cats sk 2 Bdrm apt in JP nr T for 8/1 or 9/1. Willing to pay \$600 or less if possible. Please call Mary or Karen at 522-4286. Lv Msq. (50)

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Does your household need more roomates/pets? A gay man with 2 cats could be the answer. Progressive nonsmoker seeks non-yuppie household, Cambridge/Boston. Call Michael, 776-2947, 9:30-11:00 pm. (49)

APARTMENTS

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Jones Hill, Dorch: Bright + sunny 2BR 1st flr, wood flrs, proch, back yard, nr Red Line, LF owner-occ, avail Aug 1st, \$500 + util, 288-9136. (49)

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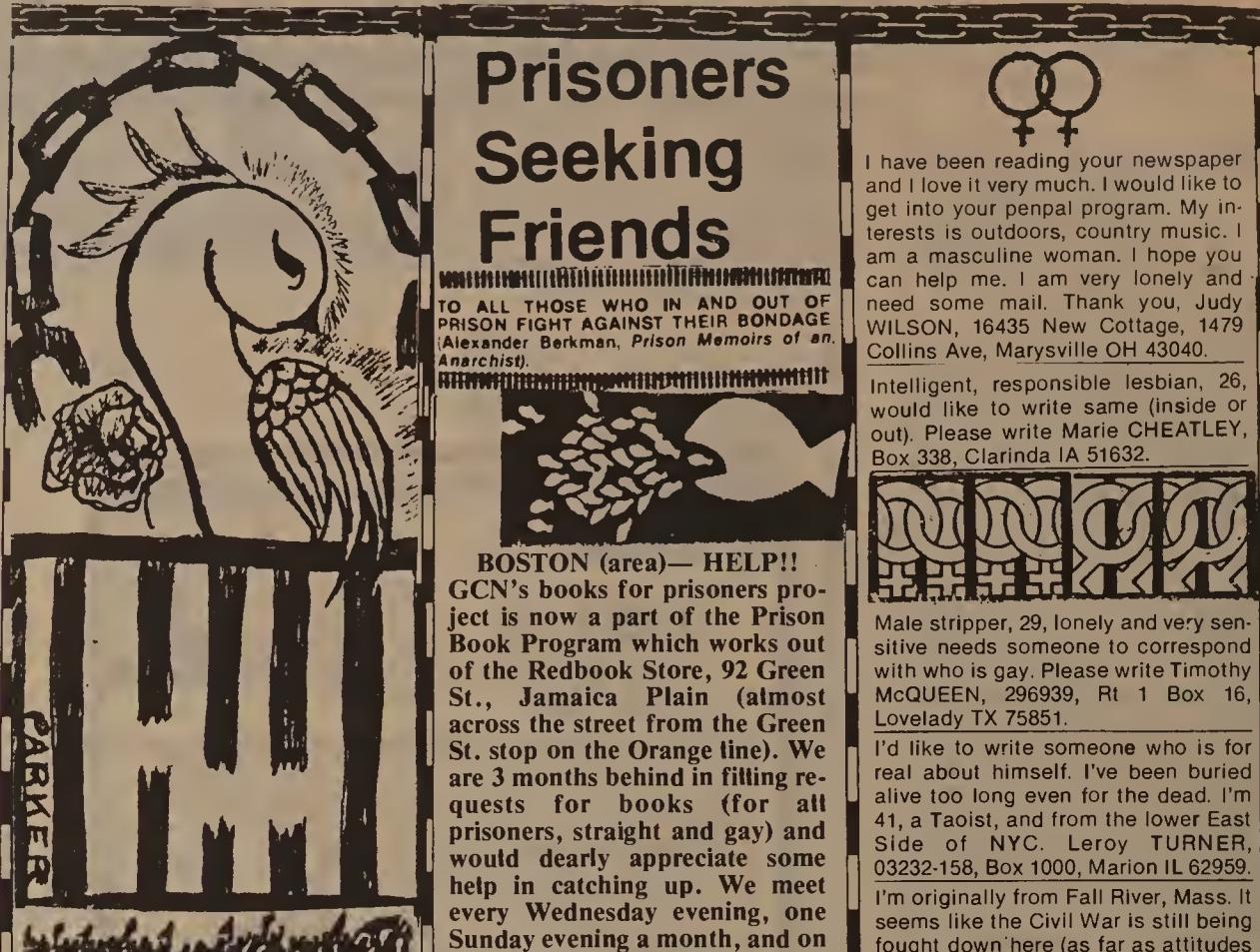
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Prisoners Seeking Friends

TO ALL THOSE WHO IN AND OUT OF PRISON FIGHT AGAINST THEIR BONDAGE (Alexander Berkman, Prison Memoirs of an Anarchist).

BOSTON (area)—HELP!!

GCN's books for prisoners project is now a part of the Prison Book Program which works out of the Redbook Store, 92 Green St., Jamaica Plain (almost across the street from the Green St. stop on the Orange line). We are 3 months behind in filling requests for books (for all prisoners, straight and gay) and would dearly appreciate some help in catching up. We meet every Wednesday evening, one Sunday evening a month, and on most Tuesday evenings during June and July. If you'd like to drop by (even once!) and help out, call Mike at GCN, 426-4469. Thanks.



The legal aid project for prisoners known as JUST US, has moved. You can write them at: Just Us, Hon. Fernando Chacon, Staff Attorney, PO Box 13673, El Paso TX 79913.

FREE FREE FREE !!!
You can get a copy of the EXCELLENT book 'Instead of Prisons' for FREE from Safer Society Press, 3049 E. Genesee St. Syracuse NY 13224. It's HOT!

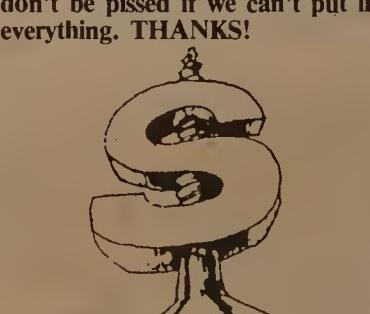
FREE from the National Criminal Justice Reference Service, User Services Dept 2, Box 6000, Rocky River MD 20850: Bureau of Justice Statistics (reports of current justice data); Corrections Reports (results of surveys of jails, prisons, parole, etc) and more. Drop them a line.



Radios, TVs, etc.!!
GCN has received a catalog from Prison Direct Distributors, Box 5673, Sun City FL 33571, saying that they supply merchandise (watches, radios, stereos, TVs, etc etc) to prisoners for fair prices. GCN has no direct experience with PDD and cannot be responsible for problems that come up with getting products thru prison mailrooms/canteens, but we are mentioning this because we know many of you are often looking for these kinds of things and maybe this place would be handy to know about. Write them if you have the spare postage and ask for more info (& let GCN know if it works OK, or what). Good Luck!



PRISONERS! Please send us some doodles, drawings, poems and poetic scribblings for this summer's prisoner centerspread of poetry and drawings. DON'T WORRY if you aren't a 'pro'! Some of your heartfelt jottings and scribbles are the best we ever see! (But if we're lucky and get a FLOOD of stuff, please don't be pissed if we can't put in everything. THANKS!



FREE Federal legal material!
The following books can be obtained from the Committee on the Judiciary, US House of Representatives, Washington DC 20515:
Ask for: (1) rules of civil procedure for the US District Courts (with forms); (2) Federal rules of evidence; (3) Federal Rules of Appellate Procedure (with forms); (4) Rules of Criminal Procedure for the US District Courts. We hear these are free and we're writing for some ourselves. Let us know if it's true for prisoners too. Thanks.

I have been reading your newspaper and I love it very much. I would like to get into your penpal program. My interests are outdoors, country music. I am a masculine woman. I hope you can help me. I am very lonely and need some mail. Thank you, Judy WILSON, 16435 New Cottage, 1479 Collins Ave, Marysville OH 43040.

Intelligent, responsible lesbian, 26, would like to write same (inside or out). Please write Marie CHEATLEY, Box 338, Clarinda IA 51632.



Male stripper, 29, lonely and very sensitive needs someone to correspond with who is gay. Please write Timothy McQUEEN, 296939, Rt 1 Box 16, Lovelady TX 75851.

I'd like to write someone who is for real about himself. I've been buried alive too long even for the dead. I'm 41, a Taoist, and from the lower East Side of NYC. Leroy TURNER, 03232-158, Box 1000, Marion IL 62959.

I'm originally from Fall River, Mass. It seems like the Civil War is still being fought down here (as far as attitudes toward Northerners are concerned). I have no hangups about age etc. when it comes to penpals as I judge people by where their heart is at. Wayne HAAS, Rt 1 Box 36, Jackson NC 27845.

Compassionate Scorpio into computers, finishing my degree and into a wide variety of music. Interested in gay rights and sharing feelings and ideas. Terry HALL, 84950, Box 128, Eddyville KY 42038.

Pagan, smiley, for real. With luck I'm on my way home soon. I need to hear from folk who are into music and mellow life. Joe TERRACCINO, 65988, Box 597, Hammonton NJ 08037.

HURTING I send you my silently screamed PLEA. I'm feel so desperately ALONE. Envision an affectionate, petite, delicate boned misunderstood woman (I am a male-to-female transsexual) trapped in a male exterior and you have ME, Melissa Lynn.. 'Missy'. I'm 43 but constantly mistaken for my late 20s or very early 30s. Melissa Lynn James, AKA Mario LaTESSA, 083026, Box 747, (U-3-S-7), Starke FL 32091.

People say I'm nice looking and a very friendly person. I'd like to hear from some gay men. Photo appreciated but not necessary. I have family but they don't write unless something very serious or tragic happens. (Especially anyone who LOVES Stevie Nicks!!) Kenneth SPENCE, 427958, Rt 1 Box 150, Tennessee Colony TX 75861.

Lonely Bisexual looking for a true-hearted person that will show some warm support to a lonely biperson. Please write Adrian 'Star' PRICE, 35588, Box 2, Lansing KS 66043.



HUNDREDS OF MEN (& WOMEN) THROWN TOGETHER BY THE SYSTEM, SOMETIMES FOR YEARS AT A STRETCH, AND THE WORST INSULT THEY CAN THROW AT EACH OTHER IS THAT THEY MIGHT WANT TO MAKE LOVE TO EACH OTHER — Send for a copy of Eric Mann's 'Red Prison Movement' if you're interested in an excellent piece on the need to get yourselves (ourselves) together against prison bullshit. Write GCN for a copy of 'RPM'. IT'S HOT! (and short too!) (smile)

CALENDAR

**June 28
to
July 17**

27 saturday

Boston — Women's Technical Institute non-traditional careers workshop for women. 10:30am. Free. Info: 266-2243.

Boston — Something About the Women interviews self-defense innovator **Melissa Soalt**. WMFO, 91.5FM. 11am.

Boston — Chiltern Mt. Club class II whitewater day trip below Ayers Dam. Info: Betsey Mayers, 899-1606.

Cambridge — Lesbian couples rap. DOB, Old Camb. Baptist Church, 1151 Mass. Ave. 8PM. \$1. Info: 661-3633.

Boston — Primary Colors: a New England Conference for Asian, Black, Latino/a & Native American Artists & Cultural Workers. Mass. College of Art Tower Building, 621 Huntington Ave. 8:30am. Free. Info: 266-4269, 266-2084.

28 sunday

Arlington — Jewish women's open discussion group: reunion potluck picnic. Spy Pond, to left of beach. 1pm. Raindate: July 12.

Boston — Boston's Other Voice interviews Dr. David Stoler, Holistic therapies coordinator for the AIDS Action Committee. WROR, 98.5FM. 12:30am (Monday morning).



Nancy Vogl, 8 wednesday

Cambridge — Women's softball Magazine Field. Memorial Dr. 4-6pm. All abilities welcome. \$1. Info: Steph, 357-5774.

Boston — Rock Against Sexism wild and crazy disc party. The 1270 Club. For 21 years and older. 6-10pm. \$2. Info: 734-1672.

Provincetown — "Aids, the Writing on the Wall," directed by Bill Taormino. Universalist Meeting House, 236 Commercial St. 9:30pm. \$5.

29 monday

Cambridge — Boston Bisexual Men's Network monthly meeting. Old Camb. Baptist Church, Harvard Square (red side door). 7:30pm. Info: 247-6683.

Worcester — AIDS Project Worcester weekly support group. First Unitarian Church, 90 Main St. 7pm. Info: 755-3773.

30 tuesday

Boston — Not All Parents Are Straight. Documentary on gay parenting. WGBH-TV. Ch. 44. 8:30pm.

Cambridge — South Africa Tapes: video installation by Bonnie Donahue. Cambridge Multicultural Arts Center, 41 Second St. Opening: 5:30-8:30pm. Info: 577-1400.

Boston — "Foster Care is Non-Negotiable," rally/press conference by lesbian/gay groups. Statehouse steps. 5:45pm. Info: GLDC, 661-7737.

july 1 wednesday

Boston — Planning meeting for the October lesbian/gay march on Washington. Piemonte Rm., City Hall (Congress St. entrance). 7pm. All welcome. Info: 442-9597.

Cambridge — Women's music summer special with Lindsay Ellison on "Say It Sister." WMBR 88.1 FM. 7-8pm.

Cambridge — Lesbian Al-Anon w/childcare. Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St., Cambridge. 6:30pm. Info: 354-8807.

Medford — Tufts Summer Theater presents Langford Wilson's "Fifth of July." 8pm. \$8, \$6 for students and seniors. Through 7/11. Info: 381-3493.

2 thursday

Boston — GCN's production night. All welcome. Proofreading: before 8PM. Paste-up: after 7PM. 62 Berkeley St., near Arlington & Back Bay T-stops. GCN: 426-4469.

Cambridge — The Alley Summer Theater presents "The Riot Acts." 1253 Cambridge St. \$10. Through 8/2. Info: 491-8166.

Boston — An Evening of Feminist Men's Culture. Songs & poetry by Steven Riel, Willie Sordill & others. Arlington St. Church. 7:30pm. \$4 advance, \$5 at door. Info: 891-8886.

3 friday

Orono, ME — Coming Out for Freedom: fourteenth Maine lesbian and gay symposium. University of Maine. Through Saturday. Dorm rooms, \$7/night. Reservations: (207) 989-3306, 947-3901, 945-3801.

Boston — GCN mailing. Come help stuff the paper and meet new friends. 5pm to 10pm. Near Arlington and Back Bay T-stops. Info: GCN, 426-4469.

Cambridge — Women's Coffeehouse with tarot and magic. Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St. 8pm-midnight. Info: 354-8807.

Cambridge — Minuteman Classic IV invitational softball tournament. Briggs Field, MIT. Through Sunday. Info: 423-3156.

4 saturday

Boston — Women's International News Gathering Service monthly news feature. "Something About the Women." WMFO 91.5FM. 10am-2pm.

5 sunday

Provincetown — Aids, the Writing on the Wall," directed by Bill Taormino. Universalist Meeting House, 236 Commercial St. 9:30pm. ASL interpreted. \$5.

Boston — Interview with psychotherapist and author Ray Berube. "Boston's Other Voice," WROR 98.5 FM. 12:30am (Monday morning).

Bangor, ME — Charlie Howard Memorial Day. Memorial Service at the Unitarian Church, Union St. 10:30am. March at 12pm to Davenport Park, Corner of Main and Cedar Sts.

6 monday

Cambridge — Lesbian rap on monogamy. Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St. 8-10pm. Info: 354-8807.

Cambridge — Lesbian entrepreneurs, DOB, Old Camb. Baptist Church, 1151 Mass. Ave. 8PM. \$1. Info: 661-3633.

Boston — Lesbian/Gay March on Washington transportation subcommittee. All welcome. U.Mass./Downtown Campus, Arlington St. 7pm. Info: 265-0348.



Terry Sweeney. The Late Show. Fox Broadcasting Co. June 17.

In the 1985-86 television season, actor-comedian Terry Sweeney, then a regular cast member of NBC's *Saturday Night Live*, was the only openly gay performer on network TV. His bold, full-drag portrayals of everyone from Joan Rivers and Diana Ross to Joan Collins and Nancy Reagan won him kudos among *SNL*'s die-hard followers and such unlikely mainstream sources as *People* magazine. Then he disappeared from public view after one of *SNL*'s traditional season-closing shake-ups.

But on June 17 Terry made a triumphant return as the host of the fledgling Fox Broadcasting Co.'s *The Late Show*, the program which was helmed by Joan Rivers until her much-publicized firing a month ago. Since then the program has drifted aimlessly with nightly guest hosts ranging from the Suzanne Somers to the Martin Sheen ends of the spectrum, until Terry Sweeney rejuvenated the show with his own brand of gay anarchy.

Making a striking entrance as Nancy Reagan and delivering the opening monologue in character, "Nancy" dished about everything: "I look at poor Fawn Hall, she reminds me of myself about 30 years ago... young, beautiful, shredding documents, lying, hiding things...." She even informed us that the "Just Say No" campaign was originally aimed at other topics besides drug abuse, including Just Say No to Jogging, Peace and Potlucks. "I went to a potluck at the Kissingers and someone offered me some German potato salad and it had a short, black, curly hair in it. I was on the Suicide Hotline the rest of the night." The monologue closed with Nancy doing a striptease down to a girdle with "Just Say No" printed on the crotch.

Sweeney returned after a commercial break and informed us that he was originally supposed to host with his lover, the Rev. Jerry Falwell but that Jerry was having a fight with Jim Bakker over Terry's "ex-ex" coming to visit him in California. "Well, he wasn't Pope John Paul then he was just Johnny." A fast talker who knew 14 languages."

The crowning achievement was Sweeney's audience poll. Roaming through the crowd he asked such questions as "How many women have ever gone to a Tupperware party and ended up tearing off their clothes in a big orgy with the other gals?"; "How many men here tonight are wearing women's panties?"; "How many women wish they had chest hair?"; and finally "How many people have ever had sex with a rotting corpse?" When several audience members raised their hands he asked, "How many of you aren't kidding? And I was worried about telling you I was gay, well forget it!"

After this, the audience, which had appeared unsure as to how to respond to this man, greeted Sweeney with roars of approval. He seemed to be enjoying himself immensely and for the first time since Rivers left it, *The Late Show* was alive and as sharp as a knife.

It's all too easy for television to ignore the existence of gay people and both Sweeney and *The Late Show* are to be commended for a superior program. In creepy, conservative 1987 the host of a nationally broadcast television show announcing his homosexuality over the air seems like an act of revolution! A spokeswoman for Fox Broadcasting told GCN that she had received about 10 negative phone calls over Terry's appearance, and besides ours, no positive ones. When asked if he would be hosting the program again, a Fox publicity person said, "That all depends on the Nielsen overnights [ratings] and how well he does with you guys [gays and lesbians]." He does real well with me.

—Christopher Wittke

Calendar compiled by Barnaby Fisher

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